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MARVEL COMICS

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CODE BLUE™

THUNDER STRIKE

WHEN ARCHITECT ERIC MASTERSON STAMPS HIS WOODEN WALKING STICK UPON THE GROUND, IT IS TRANSFORMED INTO A MYSTICAL WEAPON CALLED THUNDERSTRIKE! ARMED WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS, MASTERSON WORKS TO PROVE THAT ONE MAN MUST MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BECAUSE THIS WORLD STILL NEEDS HEROES! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

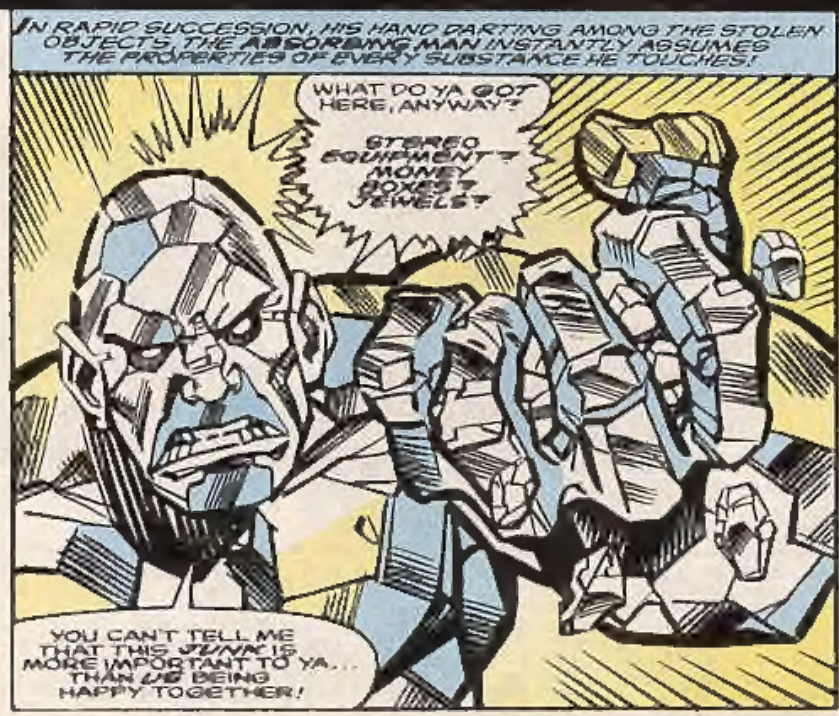
THUNDERSTRIKE!

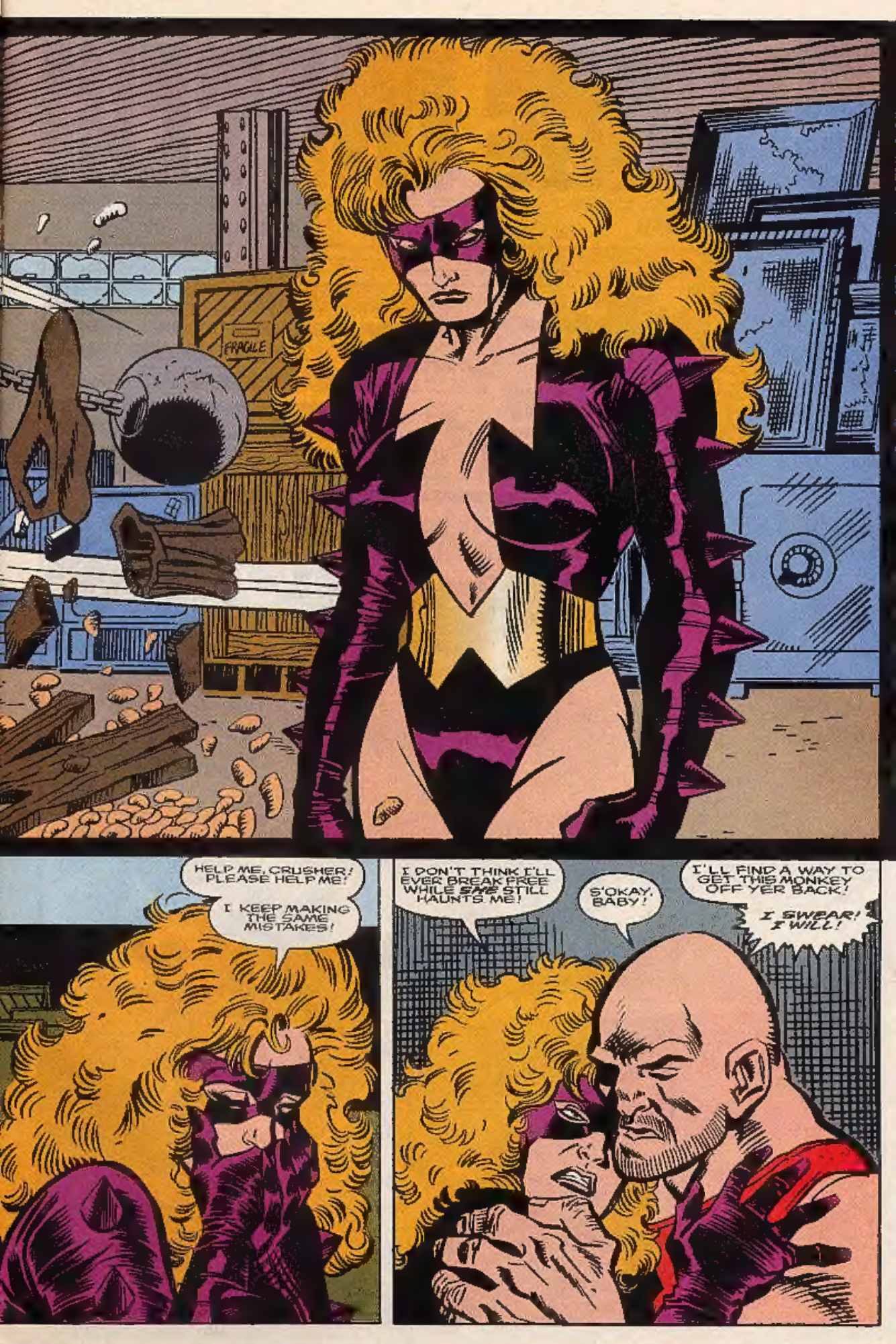
MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE. . .THUNDERSTRIKE™/CODE BLUE™ Vol. 1, No. 16, January, 1995. (ISSN #1073-8789) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $2.50 per copy in the U.S. and $3.40 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $18.00 U.S.; $30.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THUNDERSTRIKE (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THUNDERSTRIKE, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING INC./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. Printed in the U.S.A.

YER ON ANOTHER STEALIN' JAG!

BLAST IT, TITANIA! WE'RE STILL ON PAROLE!

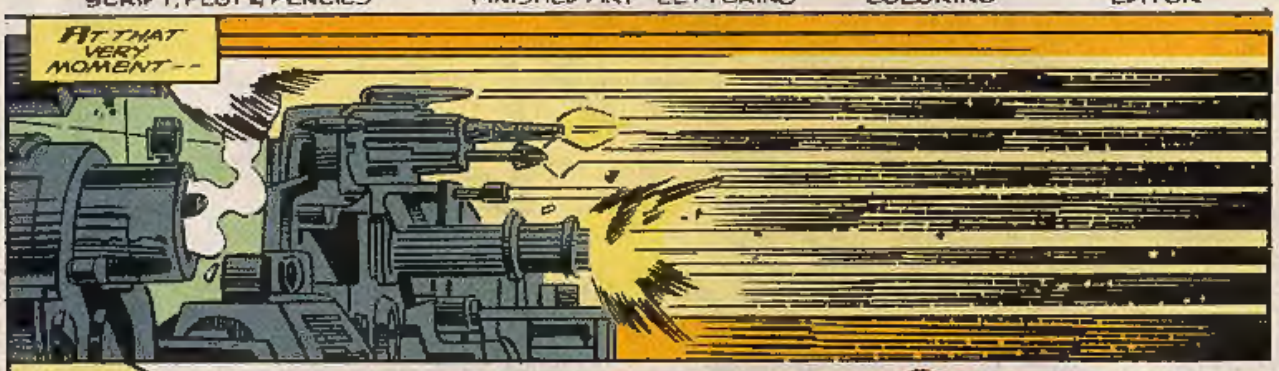
IF ANYONE HAD SEEN YA KNOCKING OFF THESE JOBS... WE'D BE UP TO OUR NECKS IN AVENGERS RIGHT NOW!

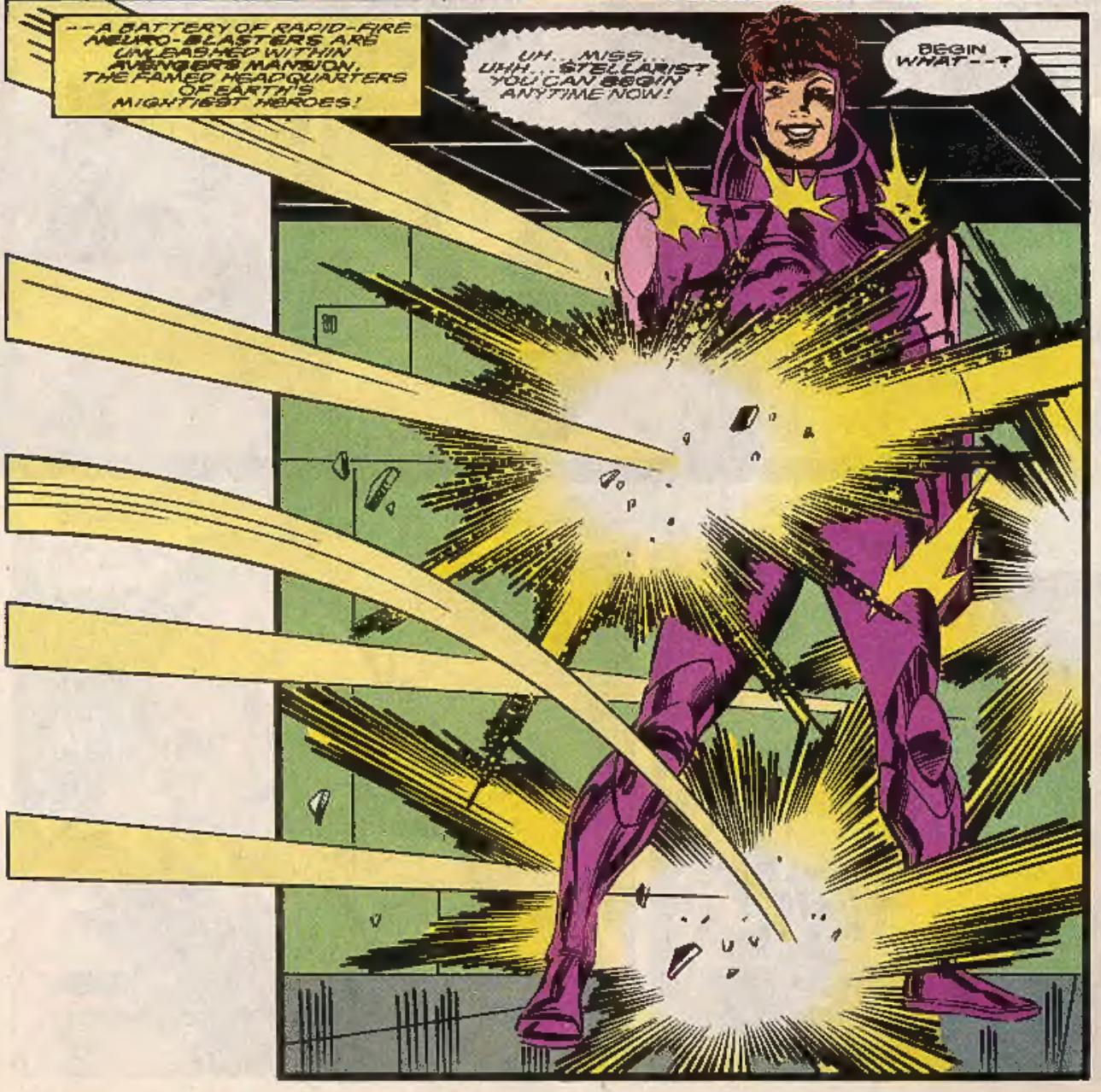



FRAGILE
HELP ME, CRUSHER! PLEASE HELP ME!
I KEEP MAKING THE SAME MISTAKES!
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BREAK FREE WHILE SHE STILL HAUNTS ME!
S'OKAY, BABY!
I'LL FIND A WAY TO GET THIS MONKEY OFF YER BACK!
I SWEAR! I WILL!

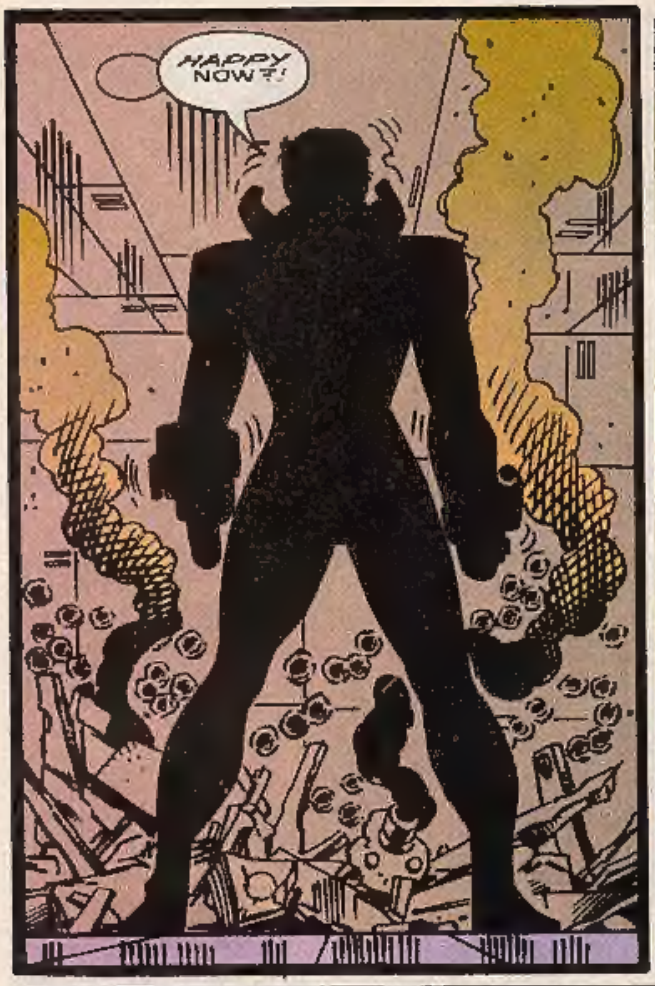
GRUDGE MATCH!

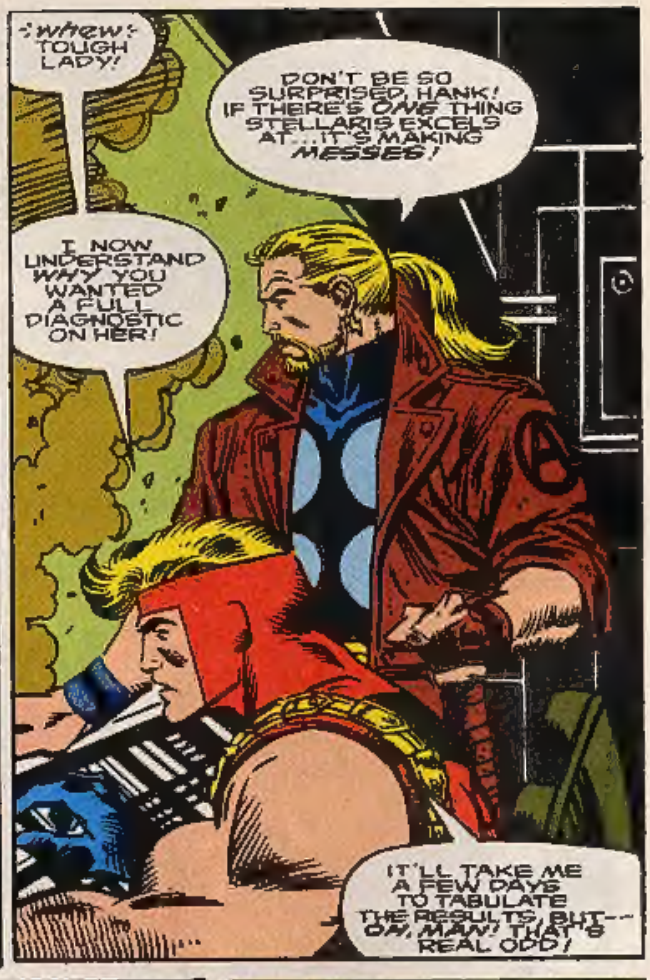
TOM DEFALCO & RON FRENZ • AL MILGROM • JANICE CHIANG • MIKE ROCKWITZ • RALPH MACCHIO
SCRIPT, PLOT & PENCILS — FINISHED ART — LETTERING — COLORING — EDITOR





YOU KNOW... YOU CAN RETALIATE!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, PRINCESS! THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TEST!
DO SOMETHING!
OH... ALL RIGHT!
I'LL DO IT FOR YOU, BLONDIE!
BUT I STILL THINK IT'S A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME!
SNIKT
WHMP
KIK KIK
WHAT GOOD IS A COMBAT SIMULATION... WITHOUT ANOTHER COMBATANT?!
SNKT
KLAK
WRRRR
MACHINES CAN'T THINK!
THEY DON'T ADJUST TO NEW STIMULI!
KIK KIK KIK
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
WHEN FACED WITH THE UNEXPECTED...
MACHINES ONLY GET TRASHED!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA


HAPPY NOW?!


whew! TOUGH LADY!
DON'T BE SO SURPRISED, HANK! IF THERE'S ONE THING STELLARIS EXCELS AT...IT'S MAKING MESSES!
I NOW UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANTED A FULL DIAGNOSTIC ON HER!
IT'LL TAKE ME A FEW DAYS TO TABULATE THE RESULTS, BUT--OH, MAN! THAT'S REAL ODD!

HER ARMOR MUST BE EMITTING SOME KIND OF RADIATION WHICH BLOCKS MY BIO-SCANNER.
I'M NOT GETTING A SINGLE LIFE SIGN!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE WOMAN WITHIN THE ARMOR DIDN'T EXIST!

ARE YOU SURE, HANK? MAYBE WE SHOULD--
ATTENTION, THUNDERSTRUCK! YOU HAVE A CALLER ON LINE THREE FOR SPARKY, THE LIGHTNING KID!
UH, THANKS, PEGGY!
HOO-BOY! ONLY ONE PERSON EVER CALLS ME SPARKY...BUT...IT... COULDN'T BE HIM!
COULD IT?!

CREEL--?!
MISS ME, BUDDY?!
LISTEN UP! I GOT THE DEAL OF THE CENTURY FOR YA!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE LOCKER ROOM OF THE NEW YORK SMASHERS...
AH... THIS WHIRLPOOL IS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED.
I BARELY MADE IT THROUGH TODAY'S PRACTICE.
MAYBE MARCY'S RIGHT. MAYBE IT'S TIME I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT RETIRING FROM FOOTBALL.

IT'S NO SECRET THAT THE TEAM HAS TALKED ABOUT TRADING ME TO CALIFORNIA!
WHY SHOULD I UPROOT MY ENTIRE FAMILY TO--
HEY, STEELE...
COACH WANTS TO SEE YOU.
TELL HIM I'LL BE IN AS SOON AS I DRY OFF...

THIS COULD BE IT! I KNOW I SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT THE MAN WAITING... BUT I HAD TO GET DRESSED.
I JUST COULDN'T FACE MY MOMENT OF TRUTH WITH NOTHING BUT A TOWEL WRAPPED AROUND ME.
COACH
GATHERING ALL HIS COURAGE, ALL HIS STRENGTH BOBBY STEELE FORCES HIMSELF FORWARD...

AND, SOON (MUCH TOO SOON FOR STEELE)...
TWELVE MINUTES! THE BUM COULD BARELY SPARE ME A LOUSY TWELVE MINUTES.
I SPEND YEARS TRAINING FOR MY CAREER! YEARS DEVELOPING MY SKILLS!
AND IT'S ALL OVER IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!

I DEVOTED THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE TO THIS TEAM!
I LED THEM TO THE MOST WINNING SEASONS AND LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THEIR HISTORY!
AND THIS IS HOW THEY REWARD ME?!

THOSE STINKING SUITS IN THE FRONT OFFICE DON'T KNOW WHO THEY'RE MESSING WITH!
BUT I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL SHOW THEM ALL!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR EVER-LOVING HAMMER-SWINGING MIND?!
IT'S A MACE.

EXCUSE ME?
MY WEAPON'S A MACE SHE-HULK. THOR'S THE GUY WITH THE HAMMER. A SUBTLE BUT SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE.
WHATEVER! YOU'RE STILL AN AVENGER, RIGHT? ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SET UP THIS MEET FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING A FIGHT BETWEEN ME AND TITANIA!

HEY, IT CERTAINLY WASN'T MY IDEA! I'M ONLY THE MESSENGER.
WOULD YOU RATHER SHE CALLED YOU OUT BY TAKING A SCHOOL FULL OF CHILDREN HOSTAGE?!
THE ABSORBING MAN SAID THAT TITANIA CAN'T PERMANENTLY RETIRE FROM CRIME UNTIL SHE FACES YOU ONE LAST TIME.
HE MAY HAVE BEEN SNOWING ME. ALL I CAN SAY FOR SURE IS THAT HE SOUNDED SINCERE... AND THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY BY CONTROLLING THE VENUE.

OKAY, THUNDERSTRIKE... YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT.
I'LL AT LEAST TALK TO THEM.
I COULDN'T ASK FOR MORE AT THIS STAGE.
LOOK, I KNOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS... BUT WHAT'S THE STORY WITH YOU TWO?
I MET TITANIA SHORTLY AFTER SHE FIRST GAINED HER SUPER STRENGTH...

"--AND SHE, ALONG WITH A FEW OF HER FRIENDS, ALMOST BEAT ME TO DEATH!

"HOWEVER, IN ALL SUBSEQUENT FIGHTS, I'VE ALWAYS COME OUT ON TOP.
"IT'S A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW!
"ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE KNOWS SHE'S STRONGER!"

HIYA, BLONDIE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER THE CITY FOR YOU. I WENT BACK TO THE APARTMENT JUST LIKE YOU SAID.

IT WAS SO BORRRRING I CAME OUT TO SEE WHAT KIND OF FUN YOU WERE INTO.

FRIEND OF YOURS?

UH YEAH

STELLARIS! WE'RE TRYING TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE HERE

DON'T GET YOUR TIGHTS IN A BUNCH, BLONDIE!

I CAN EASILY SWITCH INTO CIVILIAN MODE!

BUT, THAT'S NOT THE - OH, NEVER MIND!

HI! I'M NEW AT THIS SO I DON'T KNOW THE PROPER ETIQUETTE!

ARE YOU AN AVENGER, TOO? WHAT ARE YOUR POWERS?

MY, YOU'RE A BIG ONE.

I HELP OUT THUNDERSTRIKE ON OCCASION!

I'M CALLED STELLARIS, BUT I USE LEAH PRINCESS AS MY SECRET IDENTITY.

I'M SHE-HULK!

I LOVE THE GREEN TONE AND THE FORELOCK.

COME! YOU AND LISTEN TO ME! WE HAVE WORK TO DO.

WORK NOT FUN!

BUT I WANT TO HELP!

NOT THIS TIME.

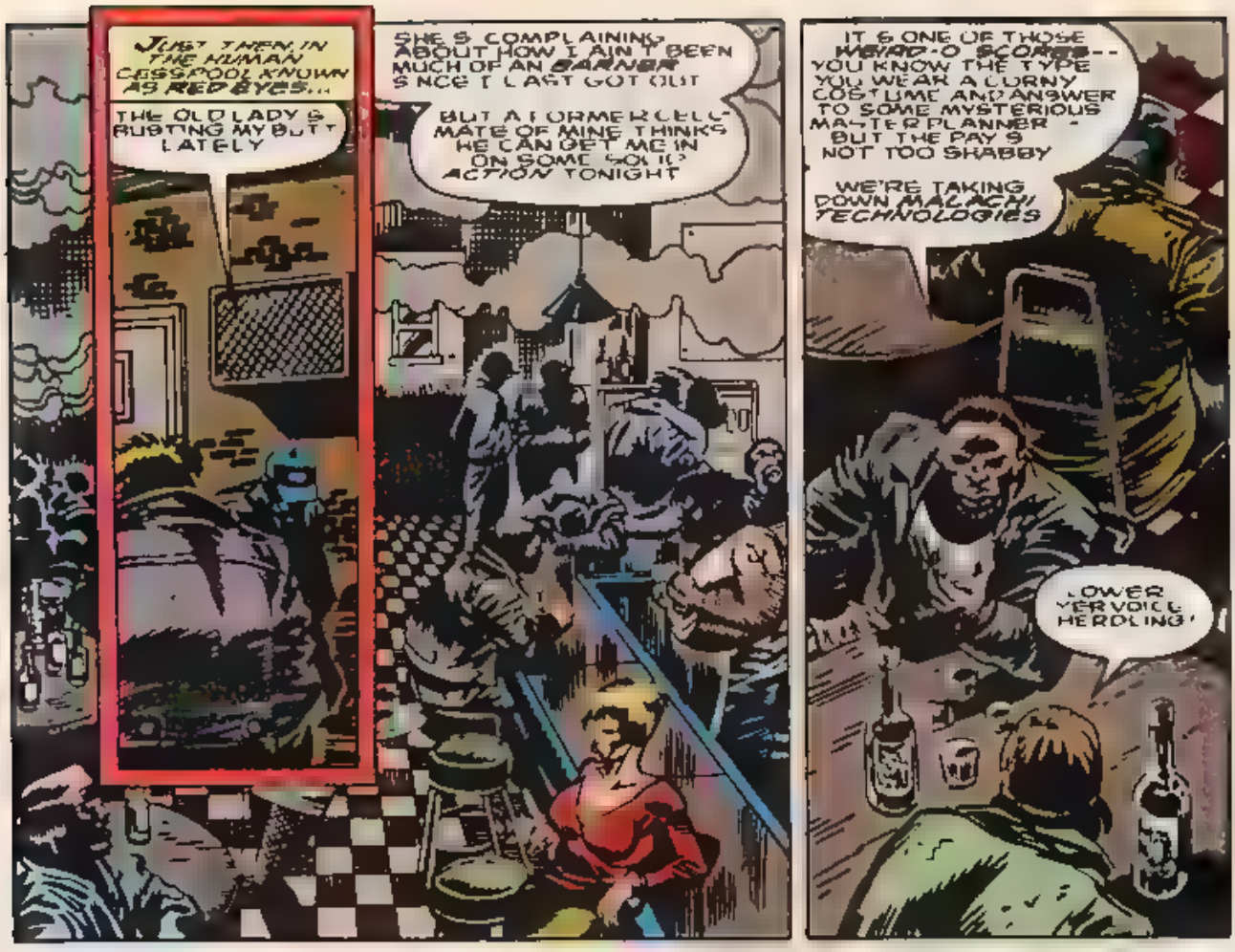
UH... WE'D BETTER GO. STRIKE! IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU, STELL... LEAH!

SORRY ABOUT THAT. SHE GETS A TRIFLE ENTHUSIASTIC.

LET ME GUESS! SHE'S A STRANGE VISITOR FROM ANOTHER PLANET.

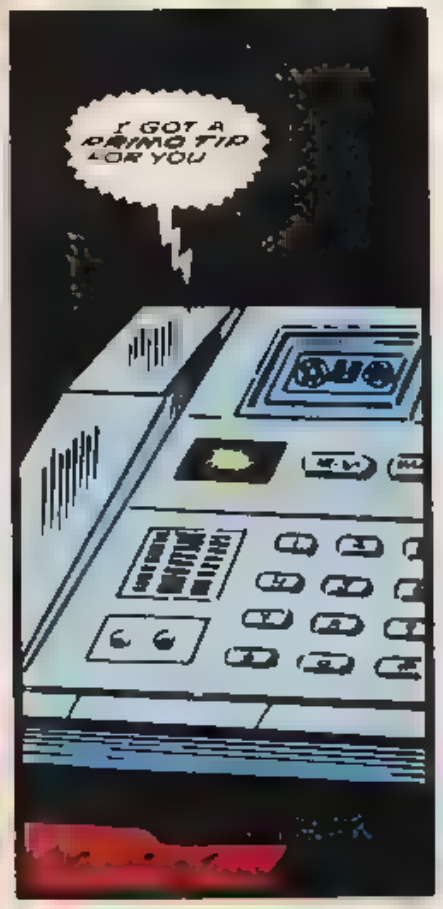
THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

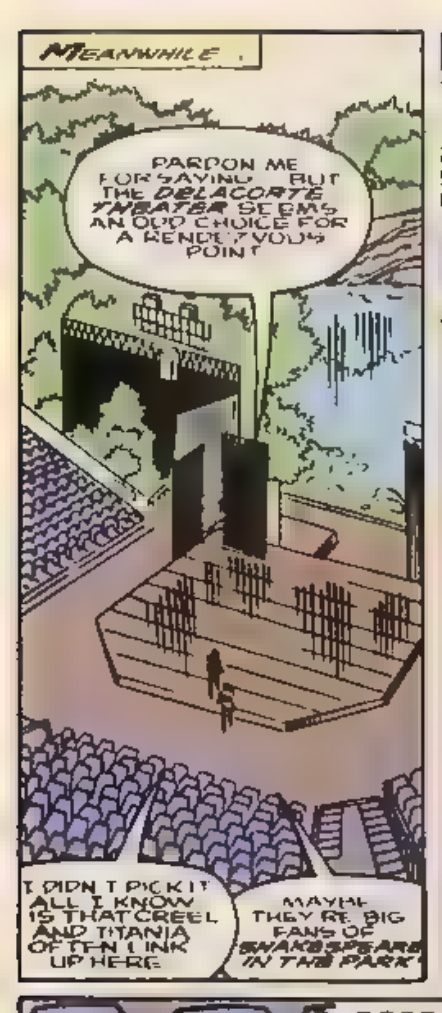
NOT REALLY. I READ THE REPORT YOU FILED WITH THE AVENGERS, BLONDIE!


JUST THEN, IN THE HUMAN CESSPOOL KNOWN AS RED EYES...
THE OLD LADY'S BUSTING MY BUTT LATELY
SHE'S COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW I AIN'T BEEN MUCH OF AN EARNER SINCE I LAST GOT OUT
BUT A FORMER CELL-MATE OF MINE THINKS HE CAN GET ME IN ON SOME SOLID ACTION TONIGHT
IT'S ONE OF THOSE WEIRD-O SCORES-- YOU KNOW THE TYPE YOU WEAR A CORNY COSTUME AND ANSWER TO SOME MYSTERIOUS MASTER PLANNER - BUT THE PAY'S NOT TOO SHABBY
WE'RE TAKING DOWN MALACHI TECHNOLOGIES
LOWER YER VOICE, HERDLING!

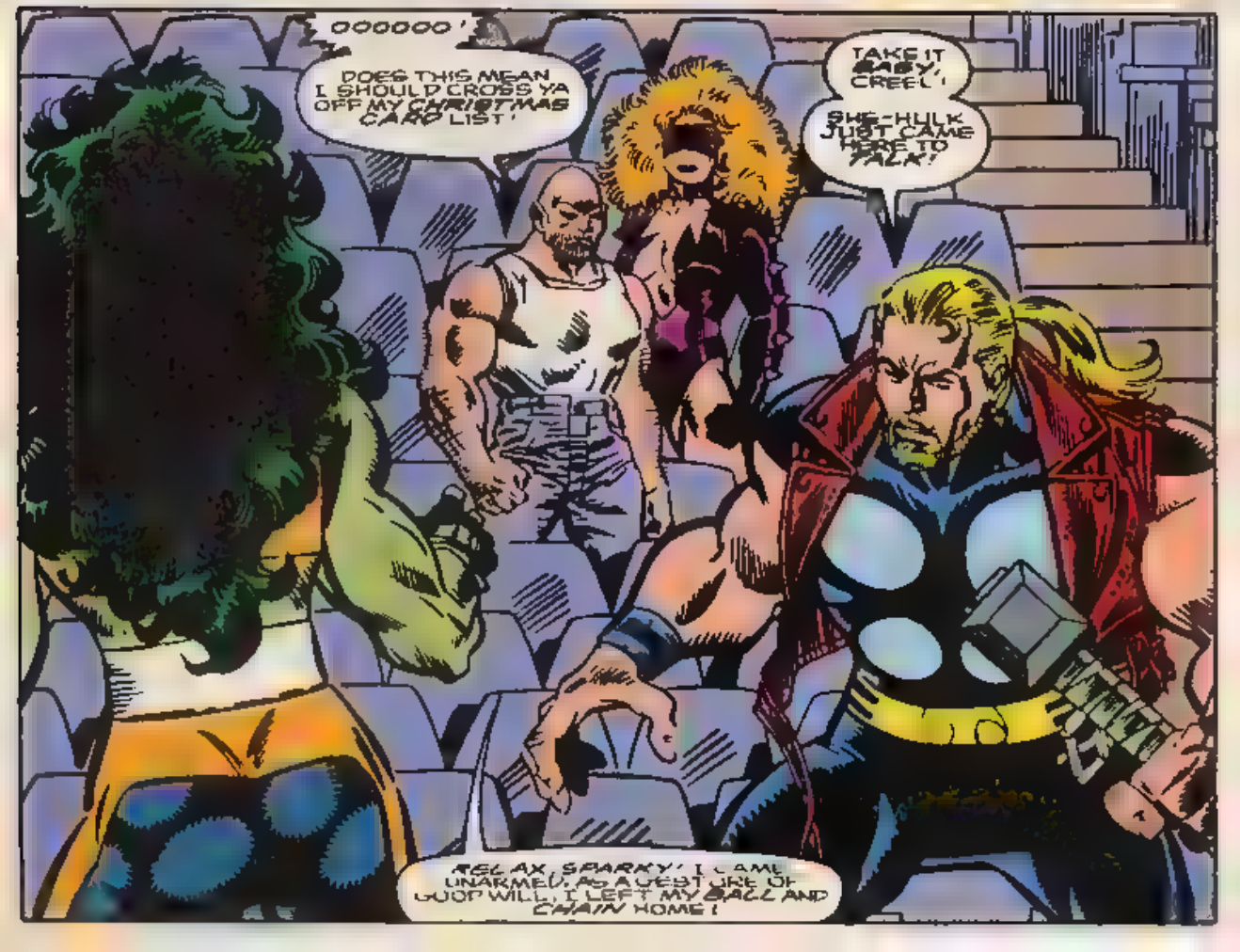
YOU'RE RIGHT, PAL! YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'S LISTEN'IN!
THERE'RE CREEPS IN THIS JOINT WHO'D RAT OUT FOR A PACK OF SMOKES!
UH-OH! TIME TO MOVE ON!

I'VE HEARD MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THE AXE MAN!
HELLO SKULLFACE


I GOT A PRIMO TIP FOR YOU


MEANWHILE...
PARDON ME FOR SAYING BUT THE DELACORTE THEATER SEEMS AN ODD CHOICE FOR A RENDEZVOUS POINT
I DIDN'T PICK IT ALL I KNOW IS THAT CREEL AND TITANIA OF TEN LINK UP HERE
MAYBE THEY'RE BIG FANS OF SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK!

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
MAYBE NOT CREEL CAN SURPRISE YOU ON OCCASION
HE ISN'T QUITE THE MINDLESS THUG MOST PEOPLE THINK
CONSIDERING YOUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP YOU MIGHT WANT TO POINT OUT TO HIM THAT HE'S JEOPARDIZING PAROLE BY CHALLENGING ME!
WHOA! SLOW DOWN, LADY. CREEL AND I AREN'T PRIEVOS BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION!

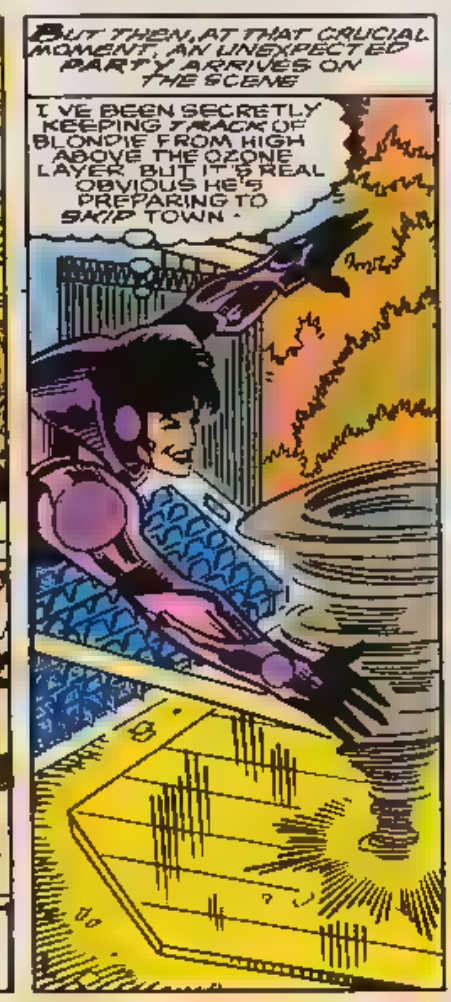

OOOOOO!
DOES THIS MEAN I SHOULD CROSS YA OFF MY CHRISTMAS CARD LIST!
TAKE IT EASY, CREEL!
SHE-HULK JUST CAME HERE TO TALK!
RELAX, SPARKY! I CAME UNARMED. AS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, I LEFT MY BALL AND CHAIN HOME!

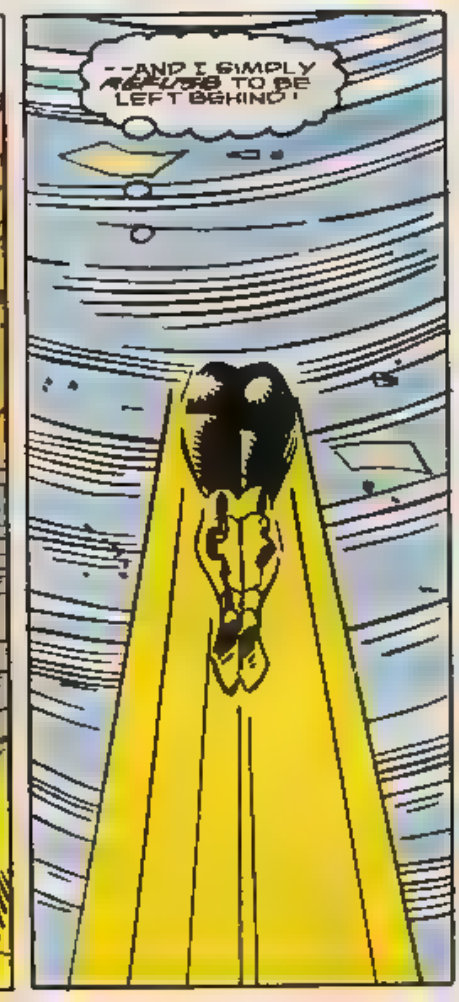
THAT'S VERY SPORTING OF YOU, CREEL. AS MY GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH, I'M WILLING TO GO TO BAT FOR YOU WITH YOUR PAROLE OFFICER!
DON'T DO ANYTHING YOU'LL BOTH REGRET! YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE FOR A STRAIGHT LIFE!
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE FOR THAT, LADY!

LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER!
SPARKY AND I WILL CATCH A FEW BEERS WHILE YOU AND TITANIA SETTLE UP
WE'RE GOING TO DO IT HERE-- IN CENTRAL PARK!
WHAT IF SOMEONE CALL THE COPS?!
DON'T WORRY, DOLL! THE CITY HAS A BIG BUDGET FOR DISABILITY INSURANCE

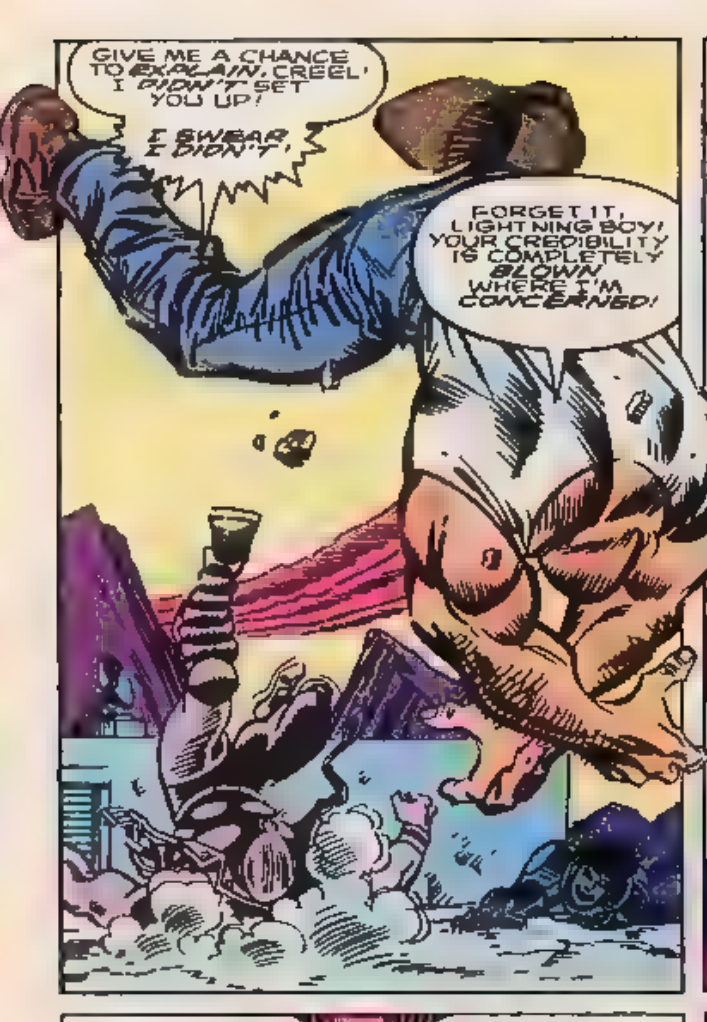
WAIT A MINUTE! THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO NEED TO PUT ANY INNOCENT PEOPLE AT RISK!
I CAN EASILY TRANSPORT US ALL TO A DESERTED SITE I KNOW... IF YOU'LL ONLY TRUST ME!

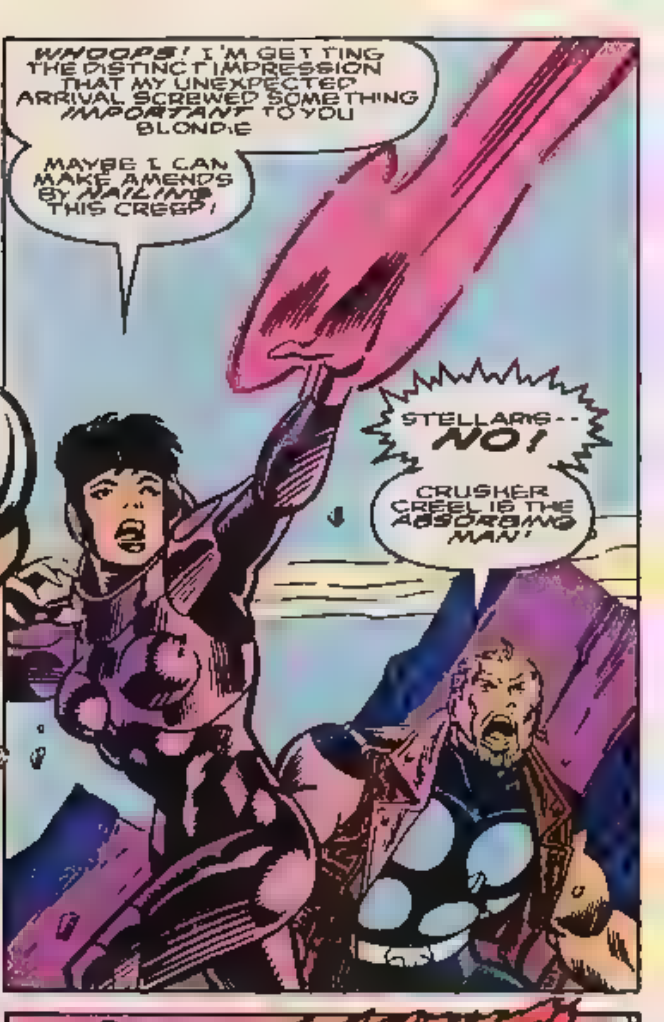
WE WOULDN'T BE HERE IF WE DIDN'T, PAL.
GO AHEAD! DO YOUR HAMMER THING!
MACE-THING! I USE A MACE...NOT A HAMMER!
MY MY... AIN'T WE SENSITIVE?!
BITING BACK HIS RETORT, ERIC BEGINS TO SWING HIS ENCHANTED WEAPON FASTER AND FASTER.


BUT THEN, AT THAT CRUCIAL MOMENT, AN UNEXPECTED PARTY ARRIVES ON THE SCENE
I'VE BEEN SECRETLY KEEPING TRACK OF BLONDIE FROM HIGH ABOVE THE OZONE LAYER BUT IT'S REAL OBVIOUS HE'S PREPARING TO SKIP TOWN.


--AND I SIMPLY REFUSE TO BE LEFT BEHIND!

BARELY A MOMENT LATER
AT A DESERTED NEVADA TESTING RANGE!*
*RENNING US TO TELL YOU HOW ERIC KNOWS ABOUT THIS PLACE REVELATION-FILLED RALF
HI EVERYBODY! SURPRISE!
WHO'S THAT BROAD?
STELLARIS--?!
OH NO!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, MAN! I THOUGHT YOU'D PLAY STRAIGHT WITH ME! I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST YOU!
--AND YA DOUBLE-CROSSED ME!
CRUEL WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--
ERRRK
RUN, TITANIA! CLEAR OUT! THIS PLACE IS PROBABLY SWARMING WITH AVENGERS!
YOU GO, CRUSHER! SAVE YOURSELF IF YOU CAN!
I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I'VE CASHED IN THIS GREEN ST!
KWAAK!


GIVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN, CREEL! I DIDN'T SET YOU UP!
I SWEAR, I DIDN'T!
FORGET IT, LIGHTNING BOY! YOUR CREDIBILITY IS COMPLETELY BLOWN WHERE I'M CONCERNED!


WHOOPS! I'M GETTING THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT MY UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL SCREWED SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO YOU BLONDIE
MAYBE I CAN MAKE AMENDS BY NAILING THIS CREEP!
STELLARIS-- NO!
CRUSHER CREEL IS THE ABSORBING MAN!

TOO LATE, PAL! YER GIRLFRIEND JUST GAVE ME A FIRST CLASS TAPPING-
AND I'M REAL ANXIOUS TO RETURN THE FAVOR!

SHRAKKKKT!
UNNHH!

MEANWHILE, BACK IN NEW YORK...
HAVE TO HURRY...
INTERESTING! THAT'S THE SEVENTH TIME JACKIE LUKUS HAS CHECKED HER WATCH IN THE LAST HALF HOUR!
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY RUNNING ON A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE!
NOW THAT'S ODD! SHE'S HEADING INTO MARCY STEELE'S HEALTH CLUB!
DON'T TELL ME I'VE WASTED MY AFTERNOON FOLLOWING HER TO A MASSAGE
FOR A MOMENT DOCTOR GARY RABETSKY HESITATES AND THEN...
I'VE BEEN HOPING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHAT WITH HER EVER SINCE MASTERSON'S PARTY *
MAYBE I CAN "ACCIDENTALLY" RUN INTO HER WHEN SHE COMES OUT OF THE WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM
* IN ISSUE #9 -- REVELING RALF!
AND JUST THEN
THWOK!
REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME WE BATTLED? I WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE YOU LICK MY BOOTS AND BEG FOR YOUR LIFE LIKE A DOG!
EVEN THAT WON'T SAVE YOU NOW!
THERE'S NO REASONING WITH HER!
SHE SEEMS EVEN STRONGER THAN BEFORE -AND SHE'S AS RELENTLESS AS A JACKHAMMER!

WHEW! I DOUBT MY HEAD WOULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT HIGH-IMPACT BLOW ANY BETTER THAN THE BOULDER!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE STARTING TO TIRE, GREENIE...

TOO BAD! I WAS HOPING THE FUN WOULD LAST A LITTLE LONGER
GIVE IT A REST TITANIA! YOU'RE NOWHERE NEAR AS CONFIDENT AS YOU SOUND!
I JUST SPOTTED THAT ARTIFICIAL DEVICE PEEKING OUT FROM WHERE YOU RIPPED YOUR GLOVE AND
ARRK
OKAY I ADMIT IT-- I'M CHEATING!

I WAS DETERMINED TO GO OUT A WINNER!
THESE SONIC FIELD ENHANCERS MULTIPLY MY ALREADY INCREDIBLE STRENGTH BY A FACTOR OF TEN!
NOT EVEN CRUSHER REALIZES THAT THIS FIGHT WAS WON FROM THE VERY START!

YOU NEVER HAD A CHANCE HONEY!
PWA-BWOOM!

NOBODY CON'S CRUSHER CREEL!

NOBODY PLAYS THE ABSORBING MAN FOR A FOOL!

GET OUT OF MY WAY, BLONDIE! I MAY STILL BE A LITTLE UNSTEADY ON MY FEET, BUT THAT WON'T STOP ME FROM ARMORING UP AND BLASTING THAT STONE FACED FREAK INTO ORBIT

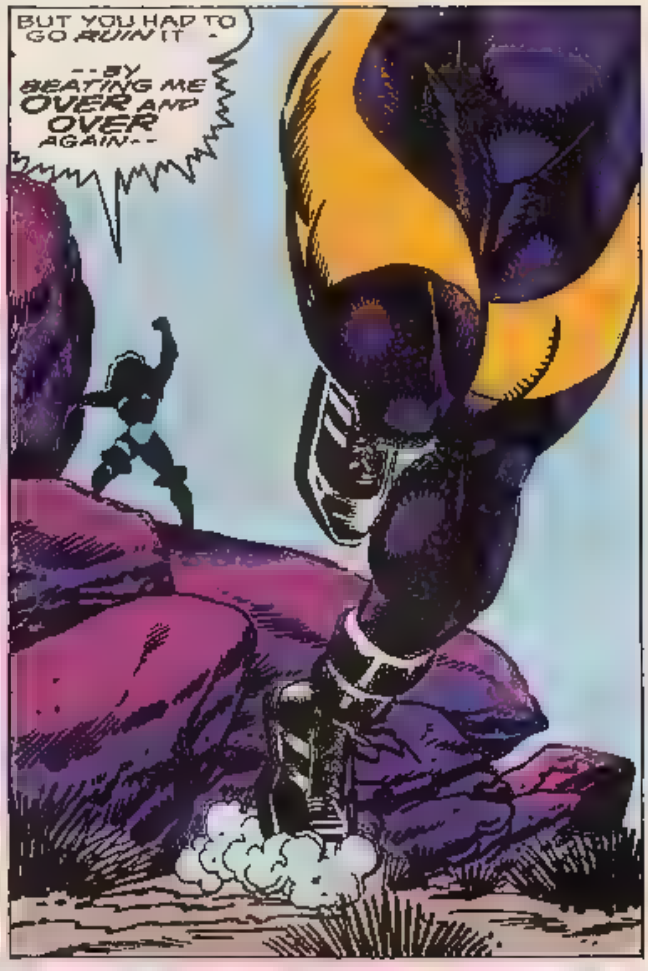
NO, PRINCESS! THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO HANDLE CREEL!

IF I'VE LEARNED ANYTHING IN OUR PAST ENCOUNTERS IT'S THAT YOU'VE NOT TO PREVENT HIM FROM MAKING PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH ANY POTENTIAL SOURCE OF POWER.

BOOM!

AND THAT INCLUDES THE VERY GROUND HE STANDS UPON!

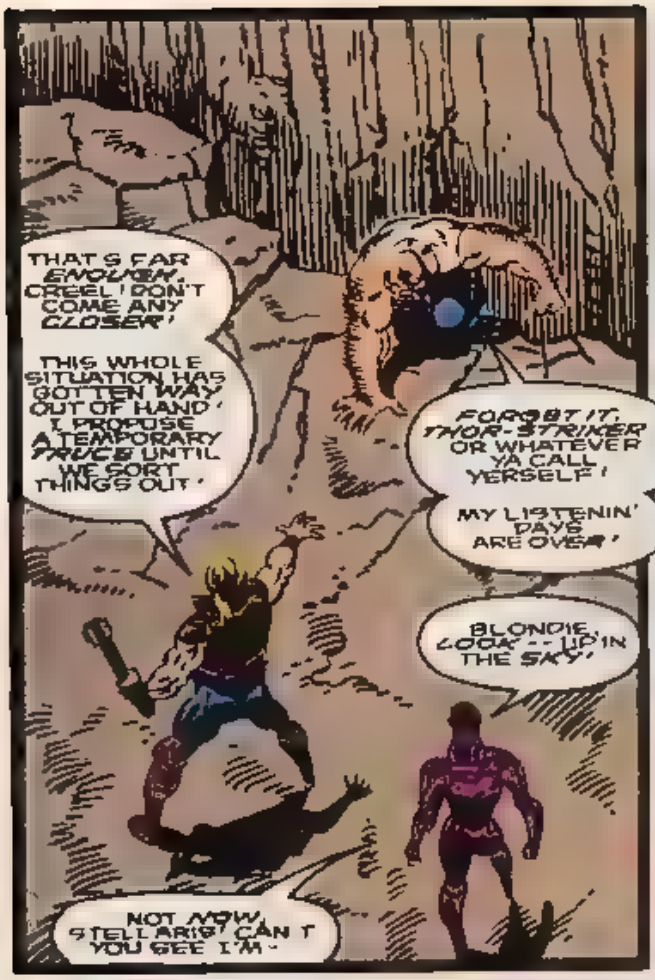
HA-HA! I REALLY OWE YOU, BIG GREEN! YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO SHOW A GIRL A GOOD TIME! THIS IS WORKING OUT EVEN BETTER THAN MY WILDEST DREAMS!
YOU WERE MY FIRST -- AND GREATEST TRIUMPH!


BUT YOU HAD TO GO RUIN IT --
-- BY BEATING ME OVER AND OVER AGAIN--

YOU'RE TRAPPED, GMB-HULK! YOU RAN YOURSELF RIGHT INTO A CORNER!
ALL THE DEFEATS, ALL THE TIMES YOU'VE HUMILIATED ME -- NONE OF IT MATTERS ANYMORE!
THE FINAL VICTORY IS MINE! I'VE BEATEN YOU WHEN IT COUNTED MOST!

GOOD-BYE, GREENIE! I'M GOING TO DUMP YOU LIKE YESTERDAY'S TRASH!

SHHHNK!
WHAT THE...?!
AHHH! IS YOUR POOR HAND STUCK IN THE SOFT GRAVEL?!
MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BRAGGED ABOUT YOUR POWER ENHANCED GLOVES!
POW!
NIGHTY-NIGHT, RED!
© Reebok


THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, CREEL! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
THIS WHOLE SITUATION HAS GOTTEN WAY OUT OF HAND! I PROPOSE A TEMPORARY TRUCE UNTIL WE SORT THINGS OUT!
FORGET IT, THOR-STRIKER OR WHATEVER YA CALL YERSELF!
MY LISTENIN' DAYS ARE OVER!
BLONDIE, LOOK -- UP IN THE SKY!
NOT NOW, STELLARIS! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M-

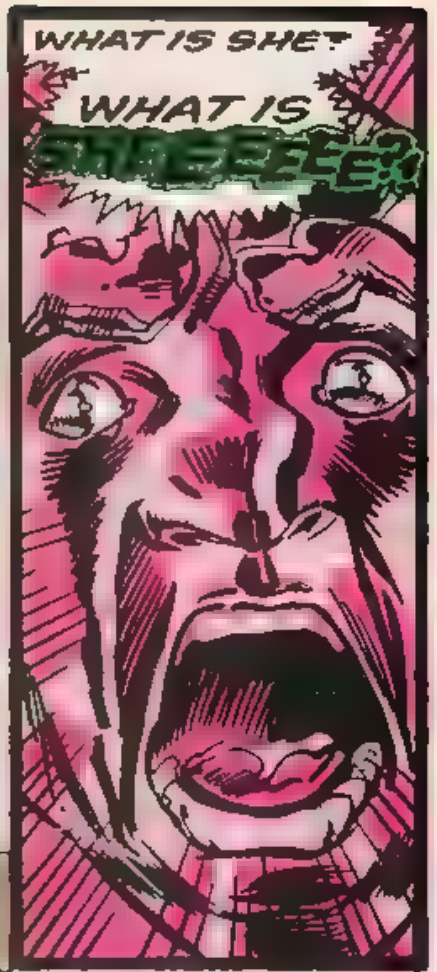
WONK!

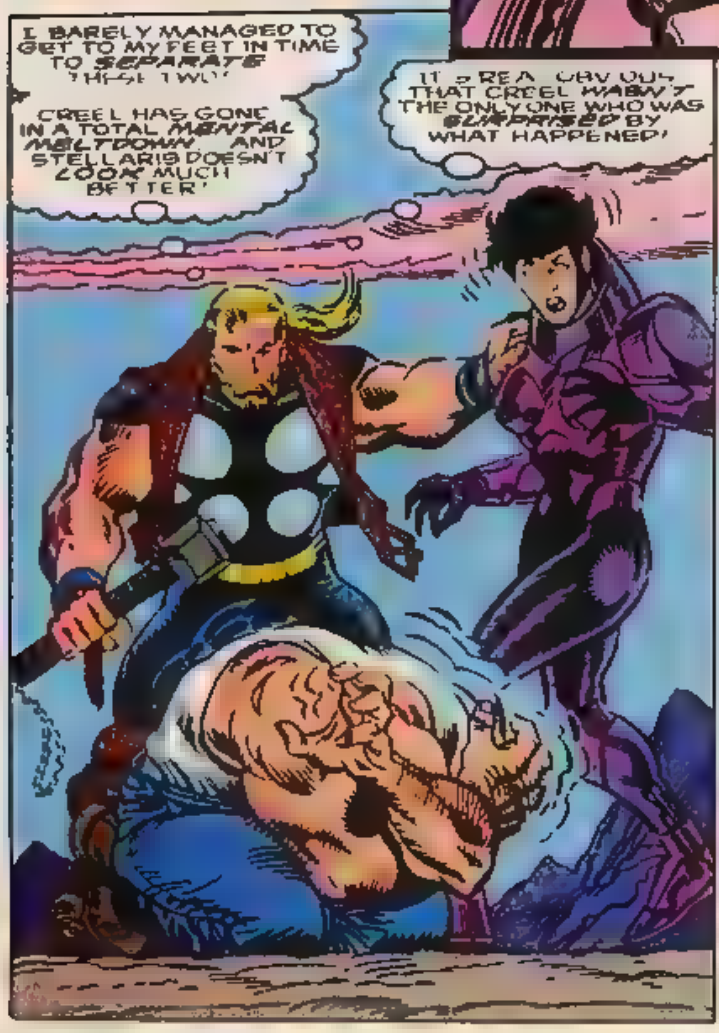
TITANIA! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YA, BABY?!
BLONDIE-?!

FORGIVE ME FOR SUDDENLY GETTIN ALL GRABBY ON YA HONEY!
I NEED A QUICK DOSE OF POWER AND FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN YOU GOT PLENTY!
I GOTTA GET TANIA OUTTA HERE... AND FAST!
WHA-?!

YEAH!
I CAN ALREADY FEEL YOUR POWER FLOWING INTO MY BODY!
YEAH!

WAA-- WAIT! THIS DON'T FEEL RIGHT!
IT'S TOO DIFFERENT TOO ALIEN!


WHAT IS SHE?
WHAT IS SHEEEE?!


I BARELY MANAGED TO GET TO MY FEET IN TIME TO SEPARATE THESE TWO!
CREEL HAS GONE IN A TOTAL MENTAL MELTDOWN AND STELLARIS DOESN'T LOOK MUCH BETTER!
IT'S REALLY OUT THAT CREEL WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS SURPRISED BY WHAT HAPPENED!

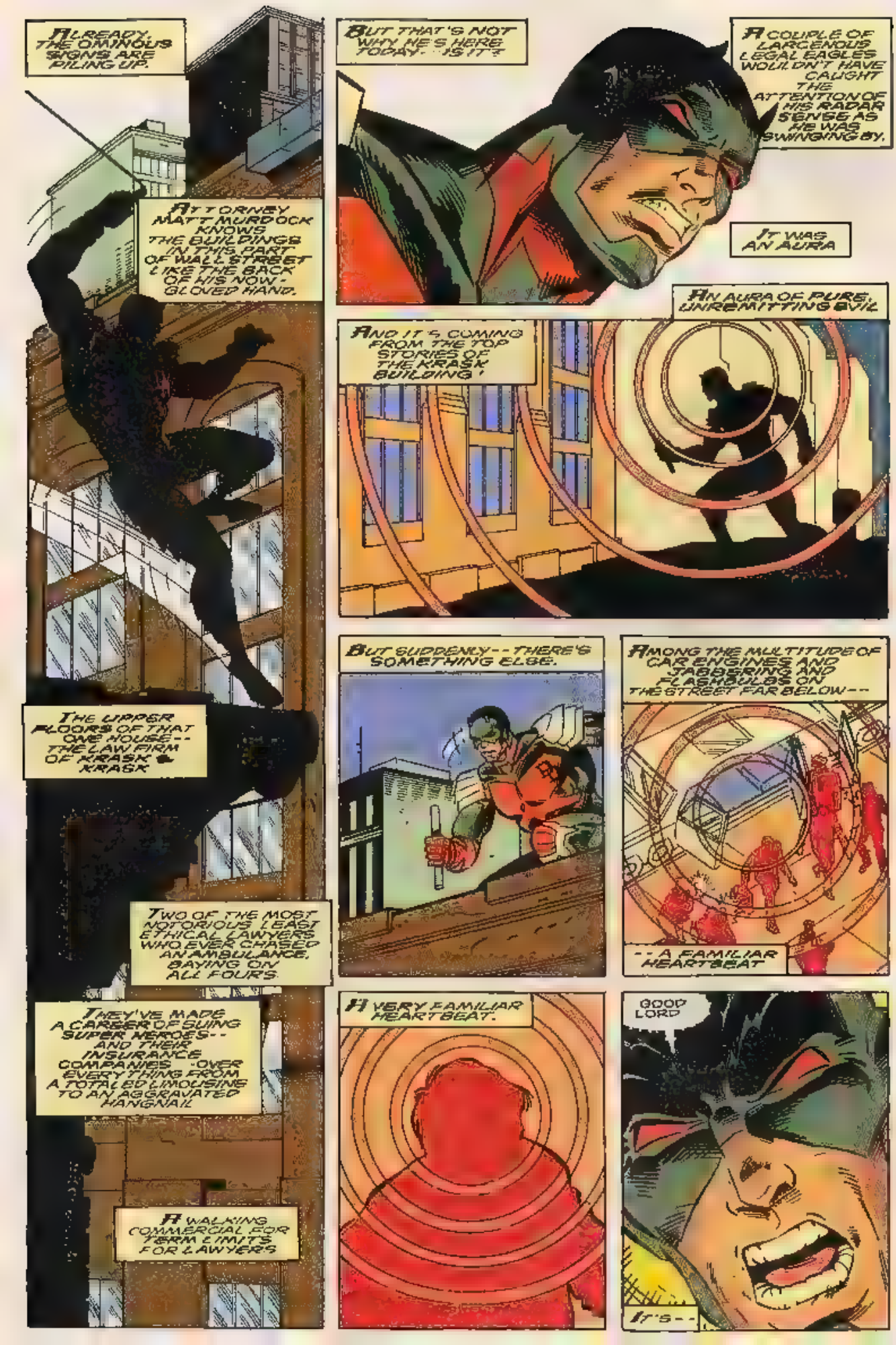
I'VE ALWAYS HAD QUESTIONS ABOUT STELLARIS. BUT IT SUDDENLY SEEMS LIKE SHE HAS SECRETS WHICH EVEN SHE DOESN'T KNOW!
AND SOMETHING TELLS ME I'D BETTER GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THEM!

EPILOGUE
THE MOON HAS BARELY CLAIMED THE SKY A FEW HOURS LATER WHEN MALACHI TECHNOLOGIES RECEIVES A SWARM OF UNINVITED GUESTS
MALACHI TECHNOLOGIES
PLUS ANOTHER!
I REALLY MUST CONGRATULATE MY SNITCH!
THIS MOST DEFINITELY COMES UNDER THE HEADING OF A WEIRD-O SCORE
I HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN THESE COSTUMED CRETINS! THEY ARE UNWORTHY FODDER FOR MY DEADLY AXE!
THEIR MYSTERIOUS LEADER WILL PROVIDE THE REAL SPORT!
IT IS HE WHO SHALL SOON FACE THE DEADLY WRATH OF BLOODAXE!
NEXT ISSUE: MORE ON STEL LARIS! A STUNNING, SIGNIFICANT TURNING POINT IN THE ALWAYS RIOTOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BLOODAXE AND BRIG! PLUS THE OFF-BEAT RETURN OF THE MOST POWERFUL SUPER-THREATS IN THE ENTIRE MARVEL UNIVERSE! YOU'LL BE ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT WONDERING WHO CAN POSSIBLY SURVIVE
DEATH GOD RISING!

WHEN CONVENTIONAL POLICE TACTICS PROVED USELESS AGAINST SUPER-POWERED CRIMINALS, LT. MARCUS STONE FORMED A UNIT SPECIALLY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THEM. "MAD DOG" RASSITANO, SHARPSHOOTER — "RIGGER" RUIZ, TEAM ARMORER — "FIREWORKS" FIELSTEIN, DEMOLITIONS EXPERT — "MOTHER" MAJOWSKI, COMMUNICATIONS — ALL RAMROODED BY CAPTAIN SHELLY CONKLIN, COMMANDING OFFICER. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

CODE: BLUE

KRASK FORCE


ALREADY, THE OMINOUS SIGNS ARE PILING UP.
ATTORNEY MATT MURDOCK KNOWS THE BUILDINGS IN THIS PART OF WALL STREET LIKE THE BACK OF HIS NOW-GLOVED HAND.
THE UPPER FLOORS OF THAT ONE HOUSE -- THE LAW FIRM OF KRASK & KRASK
TWO OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS LEAST ETHICAL LAWYERS WHO EVER CHASED AN AMBULANCE, BAYING ON ALL FOURS.
THEY'VE MADE A CAREER OF SUING SUPER HEROES -- AND THEIR INSURANCE COMPANIES -- OVER EVERY THING FROM A TOTALED LIMOUSINE TO AN AGGRAVATED HANGNAIL
A WALKING COMMERCIAL FOR TERM LIMITS FOR LAWYERS
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY HE'S HERE TODAY -- IS IT?
A COUPLE OF LARCENOUS LEGAL EAGLES WOULDN'T HAVE CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF HIS RADAR SENSE AS HE WAS SWINGING BY.
IT WAS AN AURA
AN AURA OF PURE, UNREMITTING EVIL
AND IT'S COMING FROM THE TOP STORIES OF THE KRASK BUILDING!
BUT SUDDENLY -- THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE.
AMONG THE MULTITUDE OF CAR ENGINES AND JABBERING AND FLASHBULBS ON THE STREET FAR BELOW --
-- A FAMILIAR HEARTBEAT
A VERY FAMILIAR HEARTBEAT.
GOOD LORD
IT'S --

--FOGGY NELSON!*

GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, FOGGERINO

NOWADAYS KENNETH, I PREFER FRANKLIN

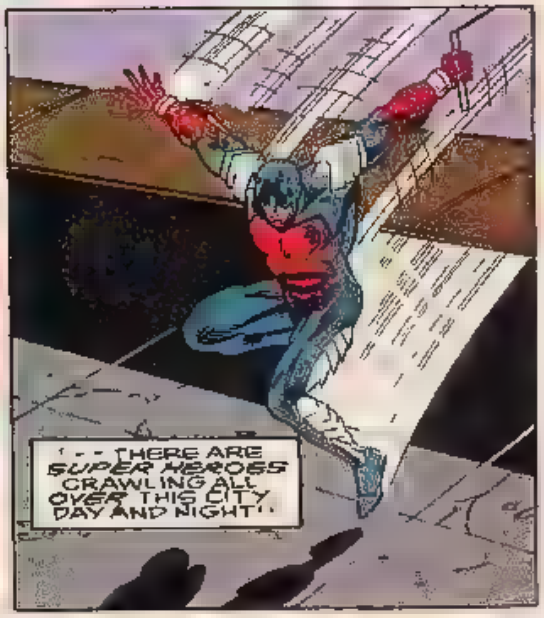
SINCE MY CLIENT IS ONLY HERE BECAUSE YOU SUBPOENA'D HIM, I PROPOSE WE KEEP THINGS A BIT FORMAL.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, FRANK.

SHALL WE ADJOURN TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM TO TAKE L. STONE'S DEPOSITION?

I'LL LEAVE WORD WE'RE NOT TO BE DISTURBED.

*MATT MURDOCK'S FORMER LAW PARTNER. -- MIKE



FIRST, JUST TO MAKE SURE WE'RE ALL UP TO SPEED ON THIS THING.

OUR FIRM HAS FILED A $50 MILLION CLASS-ACTION SUIT AGAINST THE CITY-

"-- IN CONNECTION WITH THE RAMPAGE OF THE DR DOOM ROBOT *

* SEE ISSUE #1 MIKE

"WE CONTEND THE DAMAGE WAS MADE FAR WORSE BECAUSE THE CITY SENT IN CODE: BLUE, INSTEAD OF CALLING IN SUPER HEROES."

YOU KNOW THAT "INSUFFICIENT RESPONSE" CHARGE WON'T STAND UP, KENNETH.

THE DOOMBOT ONLY DESTROYED EMPTY TENEMENTS ALREADY SLATED FOR DEMOLITION

NO ONE WAS ENDANGERED EXCEPT OF COURSE THE POLICE OFFICERS.

STILL, MY COMPANY'S OFFERED TO SETTLE THIS FOR $12 MILLION

AND WE WERE CONSIDERING ACCEPTING-

"--UNTIL YESTERDAY'S DEBACLE WITH THE ANDROID KNOWN AS THE THERMAL MAN *

"THE CITY'S CLEARLY AT FAULT FOR ALL DAMAGE AND ENDANGERMENT IN THAT INSTANCE-

*ISH #3 -- MIKE

-- BECAUSE, DESPITE ASSURANCES GIVEN US, LT STONE TOOK HIS GROUP INTO ACTION AGAIN!

ADMITTEDLY, HE VIOLATED ORDERS-- BUT IT WAS AN EMERGENCY-

AREN'T THEY ALL?

REGRETTABLY, IT'S LEFT TO KRASK & KRASK TO TEACH THE CITY A LESSON IN RESPONSIBILITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE TRADING CHARGES, KEVIN

"..SO I SUGGEST WE GET ON WITH THE ACTUAL DEPOSITION!

"THIS ISN'T A DEPOSITION --

-IT'S A LYNCH MOB WITH BEEPERS!
WHAT PLANET ARE YOU GUYS LIVING ON?
IF CODE BLUE HADN'T BEEN THERE, THAT ANDROID WOULD VE FRIED REDFIELD ELECTRONICS AND THE SURROUNDING RESIDENTIAL AREA--
--LONG BEFORE THUNDERSTRIKE SHOWED UP TO HELP OUT
IF HE'S RIGHT THEN WHY DID THE POLICE CHIEF DISBAND CODE BLUE FOLLOWING THAT INCIDENT?
PLEASE LT STONE SAVE IT FOR THE DEPOSITION
--AND SEND CAPT CONKLIN HOME PENDING INTERNAL INVESTIGATION OF HER INSUBORDINATION AND INCOMPETENCE?
WHY, YOU TWO-BIT SHYSTER!
SHELLY CONKLIN'S HUSBAND WAS KILLED BY THAT ANDROID--
--AS YOU BLASTED WELL KNOW!
MARCUS--FOR PITY'S SAKE!
HE... HE TRIED TO KILL ME!
YOU'RE ALL WITNESSES!
THE EMANATION'S ARE GETTING
--THE CLOSER THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR GETS TO THE PENTHOUSE OFFICES OF KRASK & KRASK
IF ONLY WHATEVER-IT-IS-WILL HOLD OFF, JUST A FEW MORE CRUCIAL SECONDS--!

BUT OF COURSE IT DOESN'T!

KRRAKK KK LLL

WH-WHAT'S THAT?

SOME KIND OF BLINDING LIGHT--!

IF THIS IS ONE OF YOUR CHEAP TRICKS TO STOP ME FROM MOPPING UP THE FLOOR WITH YOU

ARE YOU KIDDING?

I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT

I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, KENNETH. AND YOU, AS WELL, KEVIN

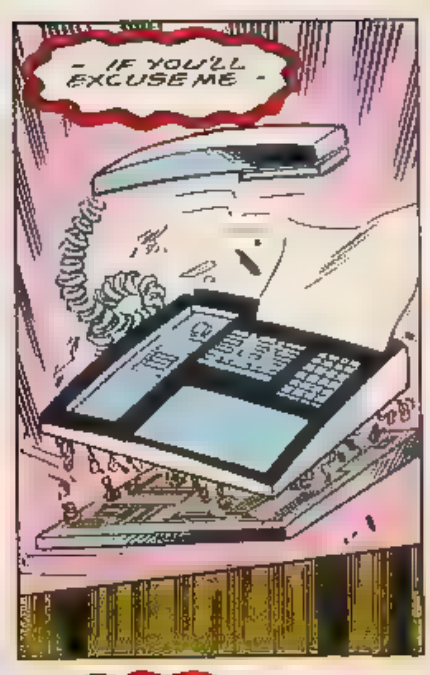
DON'T YOU BOYS EVEN RECOGNIZE

--YOUR OWN FATHER?

D-DAD!? BUT YOU'RE DEAD!

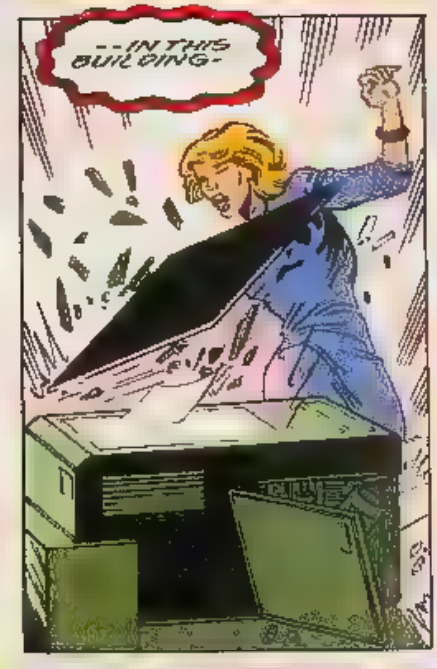
AS IF A LEGAL TECHNICALITY LIKE THAT SHOULD KEEP US FROM HAVING A FAMILY CONFERENCE!

BUT FIRST--

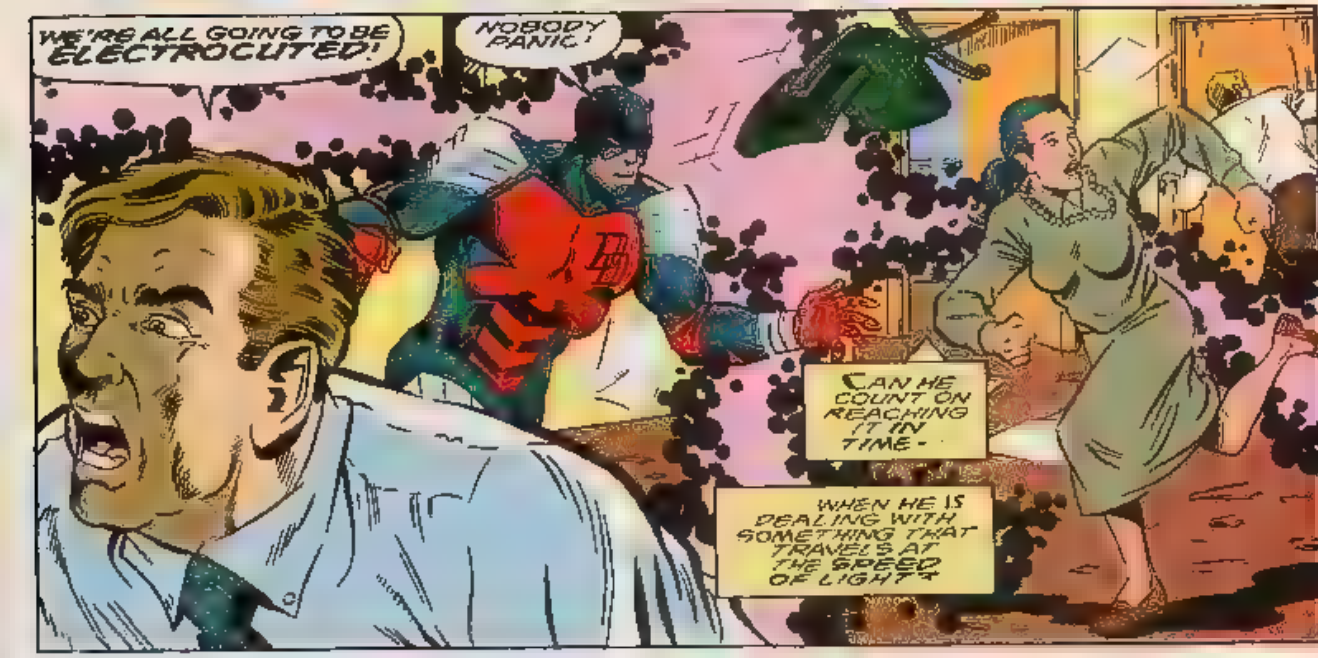

- IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME -

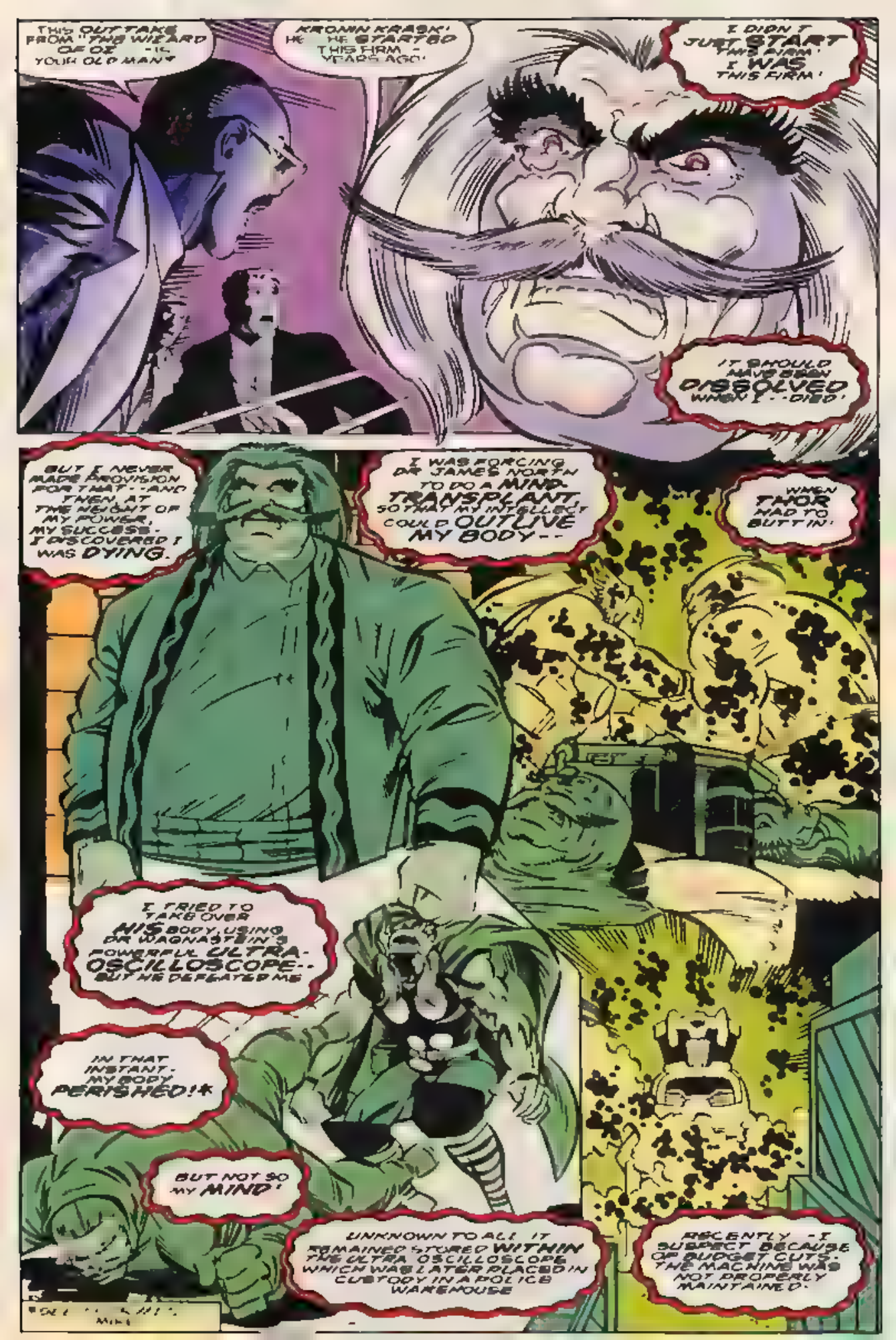
I MUST TAKE OVER.

--ALL ELECTRONICALLY POWERED SYSTEMS--

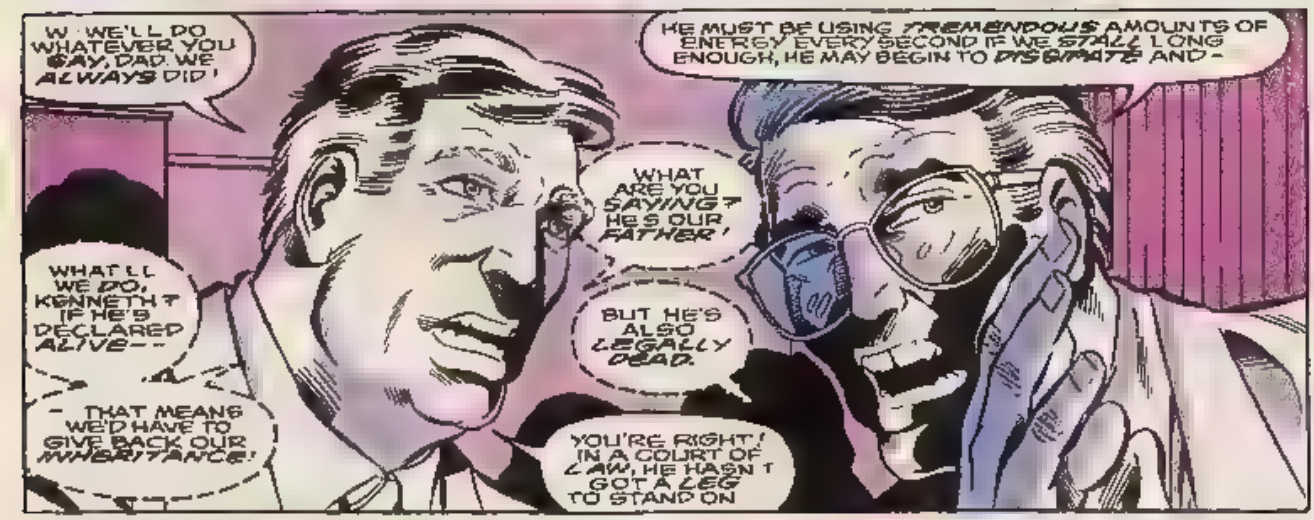

--IN THIS BUILDING-

--JUST AS A PRECAUTION, YOU UNDERSTAND!
THE MAIN SOURCE OF THE WILDLY CASCADING ENERGY IS STILL SEVERAL CORRIDORS AWAY!

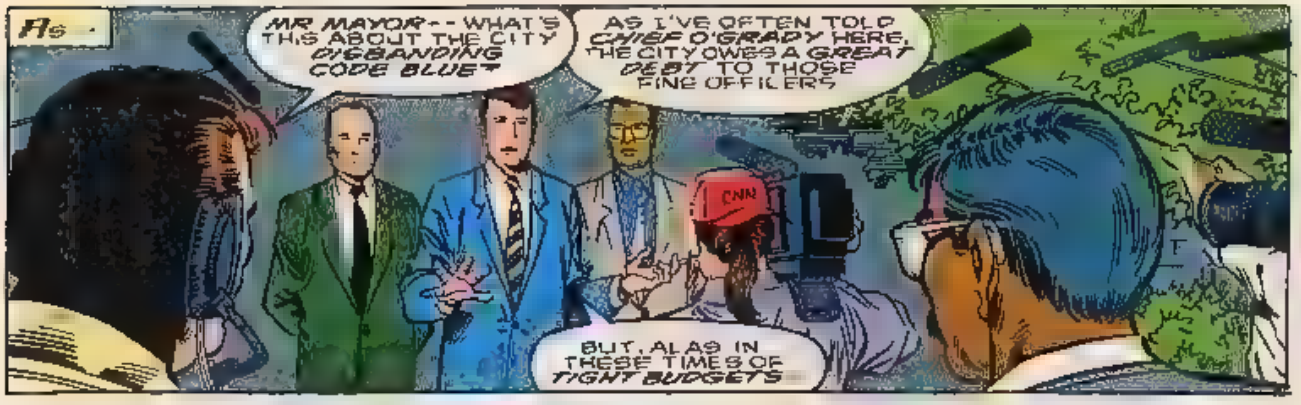

WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE ELECTROCUTED!
NOBODY PANIC!
CAN HE COUNT ON REACHING IT IN TIME-
WHEN HE IS DEALING WITH SOMETHING THAT TRAVELS AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT?

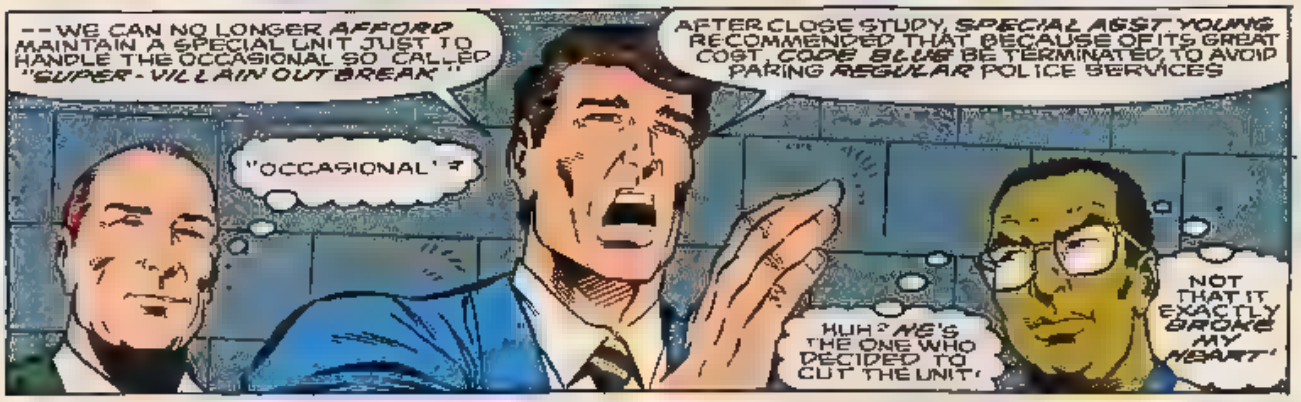

THIS OUTTAKE FROM "THE WIZARD OF OZ" IS YOUR OLD MANY
KRONIN KRASK! HE HE STARTED THIS FIRM -- YEARS AGO!
I DIDN'T JUST START THIS FIRM! I WAS THIS FIRM!
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISSOLVED WHEN I -- DIED!
BUT I NEVER MADE PROVISION FOR THAT -- AND THEN, AT THE HEIGHT OF MY POWER, MY SUCCESS - I DISCOVERED I WAS DYING.
I WAS FORCING DR JAMES NORTH TO DO A MIND TRANSPLANT SO THAT MY INTELLECT COULD OUTLIVE MY BODY --
WHEN THOR HAD TO BUTT IN!
I TRIED TO TAKE OVER HIS BODY, USING DR WAGNER'S POWERFUL ULTRA-OSCILLOSCOPE -- BUT HE DEFEATED ME
IN THAT INSTANT - MY BODY PERISHED!
BUT NOT SO MY MIND!
UNKNOWN TO ALL, IT REMAINED STORED WITHIN THE ULTRA OSCILLOSCOPE WHICH WAS LATER PLACED IN CUSTODY IN A POLICE WAREHOUSE
RECENTLY - I SUSPECT BECAUSE OF BUDGET CUTS - THE MACHINE WAS NOT PROPERLY MAINTAINED.

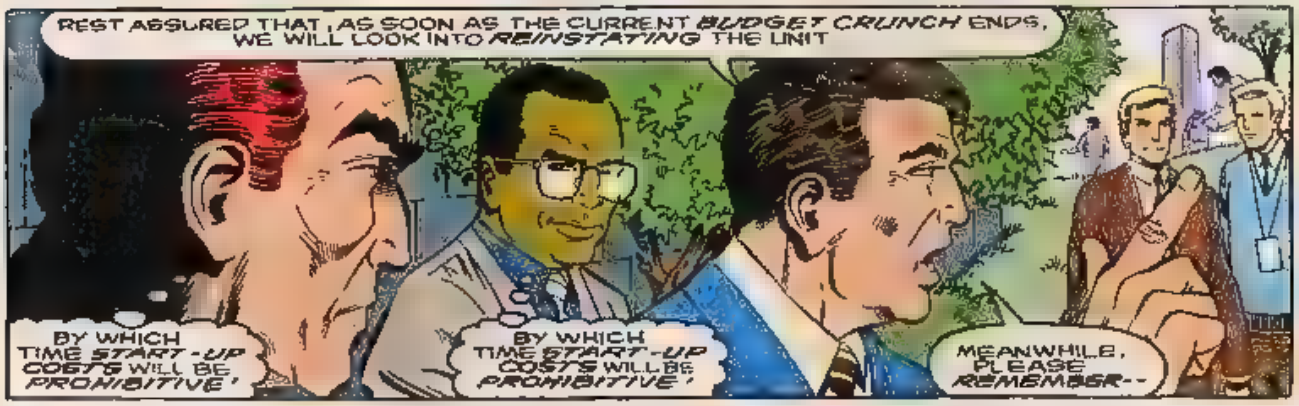
--AND I WAS FREED!
THEN THE OSCILLOSCOPE WAS MORE SUCCESSFUL YEARS AGO THAN ANYONE EVER DREAMED!
LISTEN TO ME, MY SONS! I'VE HAD A LOT OF TIME TO THINK ABOUT THIS.
I WANT YOU TO PETITION THE COURTS TO HAVE ME DECLARED ALIVE--AS AN "ENERGY PERSON"--WITH ALL THE RIGHTS OF A NORMAL HUMAN BEING.
WHAT ??

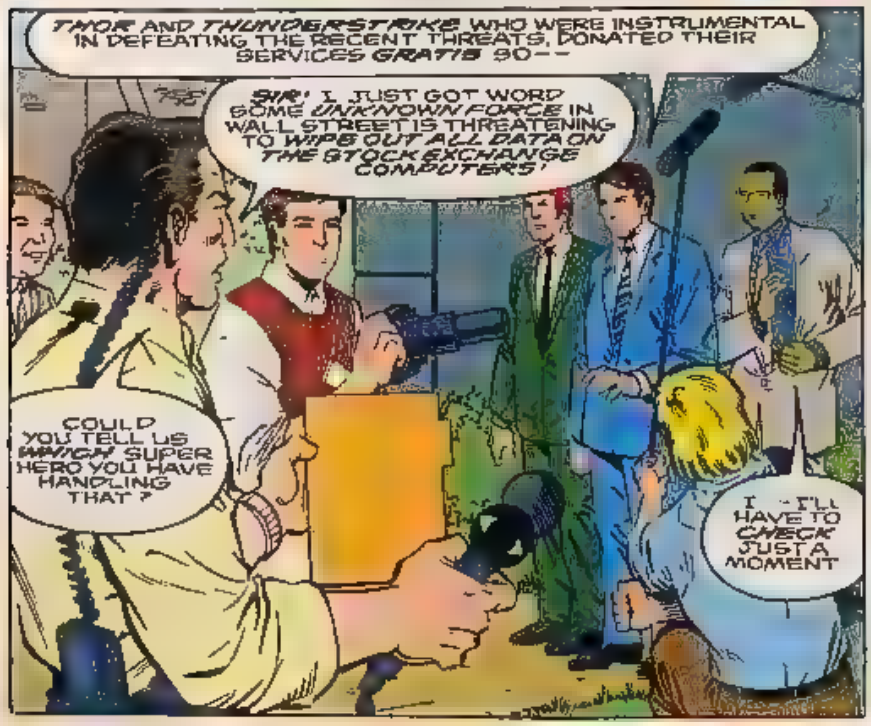

W-WE'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY, DAD. WE ALWAYS DID!
HE MUST BE USING TREMENDOUS AMOUNTS OF ENERGY EVERY SECOND IF WE STALL LONG ENOUGH, HE MAY BEGIN TO DISSIPATE AND-
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? HE'S OUR FATHER!
WHAT'LL WE DO, KENNETH? IF HE'S DECLARED ALIVE--
BUT HE'S ALSO LEGALLY DEAD.
-THAT MEANS WE'D HAVE TO GIVE BACK OUR INHERITANCE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! IN A COURT OF LAW, HE HASN'T GOT A LEG TO STAND ON

THAT'S ENOUGH! DID YOU THINK I COULDN'T READ THE VERY ELECTRONS YOUR VOICES STIRRED INTO MOTION?
YOU AND THE COURTS WILL BOTH DO WHAT I WANT--
OR I'LL USE MY NEW POWERS TO INVADE THE STOCK EXCHANGE COMPUTERS--
--AND CAUSE THE COMPLETE COLLAPSE OF THE U.S. FINANCIAL SYSTEM!
I THINK MAYBE HE MEANS IT KENNETH!


MR MAYOR-- WHAT'S THIS ABOUT THE CITY DISBANDING CODE BLUE?
AS I'VE OFTEN TOLD CHIEF O'GRADY HERE, THE CITY OWES A GREAT DEBT TO THOSE FINE OFFICERS
CNN
BUT, ALAS IN THESE TIMES OF TIGHT BUDGETS


--WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD MAINTAIN A SPECIAL UNIT JUST TO HANDLE THE OCCASIONAL SO CALLED "SUPER-VILLAIN OUTBREAK"
AFTER CLOSE STUDY, SPECIAL ASST YOUNG RECOMMENDED THAT BECAUSE OF ITS GREAT COST CODE BLUE BE TERMINATED TO AVOID PARING REGULAR POLICE SERVICES
"OCCASIONAL"?
HUH? HE'S THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO CUT THE UNIT!
NOT THAT IT EXACTLY BROKE MY HEART!


REST ASSURED THAT, AS SOON AS THE CURRENT BUDGET CRUNCH ENDS, WE WILL LOOK INTO REINSTATING THE UNIT
BY WHICH TIME START-UP COSTS WILL BE PROHIBITIVE!
BY WHICH TIME START-UP COSTS WILL BE PROHIBITIVE!
MEANWHILE, PLEASE REMEMBER--


THOR AND THUNDERSTRIKE WHO WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN DEFEATING THE RECENT THREATS, DONATED THEIR SERVICES GRATIS SO--
SIR! I JUST GOT WORD SOME UNKNOWN FORCE IN WALL STREET IS THREATENING TO WIPE OUT ALL DATA ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE COMPUTERS!
COULD YOU TELL US WHICH SUPER HERO YOU HAVE HANDLING THAT?
I - I'LL HAVE TO CHECK JUST A MOMENT

WELL, YOUNG? IF HE'S RIGHT, YOU'D BETTER PULL A SUPER-RABBIT OUT OF YOUR HAT- FAST!
JUST GOT CONFIRMATION MYSELF, SIR BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO -
HELLO? IS THIS AVENGERS HQ?

AYE 'TIS HERCULES TO WHOM THOU DOST SPEAK

JIM YOUNG, FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE WE'VE GOT A MENACE ON OUR HANDS

WHAT? HAVE MONSTERS APPEARED UPON THY STREETS?

WELL NO

DOTH SOME BASE SUPER-VILLAIN STRIVE TO SLAY THE MAYOR OR TO INCINERATE THE VERY CITY?

NOT NECESSARILY.

WHAT THEN, BE THY PROBLEM?

ACTUALLY IT'S THE STOCK MARKET

COULDST THOU CLARIFY THY WORDS?

SOMEONE'S THREATENING TO ERASE ALL DATA IN ITS COMPUTERS

FOR THIS THOU DOST ASK HELP OF HERCULES AND MINE ABSENT COMRADES?

YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND-- IF ALL THAT DATA GETS ERASED THERE'D BE SEVERE DISLOCATIONS IN THE STOCK MARKET. THE PAPERWORK ALONE--

WE'D HAVE TO SHUT DOWN WALL STREET FOR DAYS, POSSIBLY WEEKS, WHILE WE--

DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE NOT COMING?

CLIKE

I, ER, DON'T THINK HE FEELS THE AVENGERS SHOULD BE RISKING THEIR LIVES TO PROTECT COMPUTER DATA, SIR.

MR MAYOR THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO REINSTATE CODE BLUE TO DEAL WITH THE EMERGENCY

DEFINITELY NOT, SIR! WE HAVE TO TOUGH IT OUT!

IF ALL THAT DATA IS WIPED OUT--WE'LL HAVE HAVE AN ECONOMIC NATIONAL DISASTER RIGHT IN OUR BACKYARD!

BUT IF YOU CAN SHOW THAT NEW YORK'S FINEST STAVED OFF THAT DISASTER AT YOUR AUTHORIZATION

AHEM! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE

"I'M VERY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT *ALL RUMORS* CONCERNING THE *DISBANDING* OF *CODE BLUE* ARE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED!"

I *KNEW* THOSE BABY KILLERS WOULD HAVE TO COME *CRAWLING* TO US SOONER OR LATER!

I'M YOUR *COMMANDING OFFICER*, RUFF AND I'M IN A MOOD TO DO MY COMMANDING *UP CLOSE*

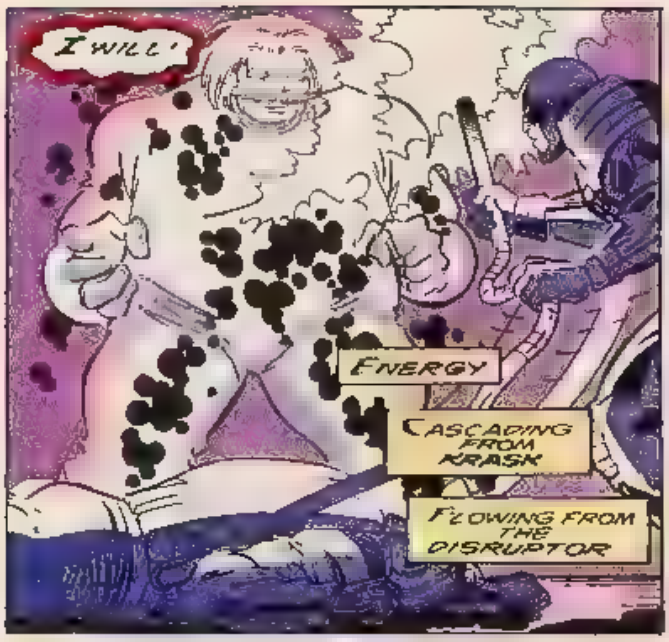
I'D'D *PROWL CRAWL* DUTY BEFORE I BECAME A *DESK-JOCKEY*.

LET'S GO *FIGHTIN'*!

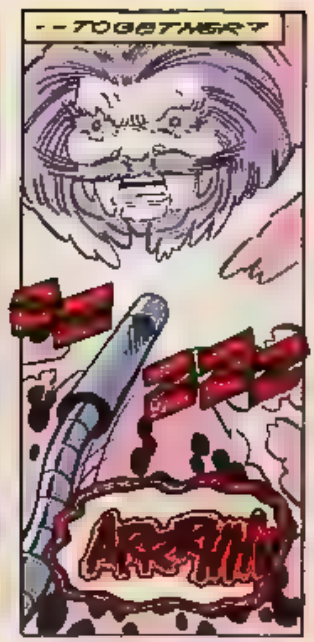
CAPTAIN, I STILL THINK *YOU* OUGHT TO KEEP *BACK*

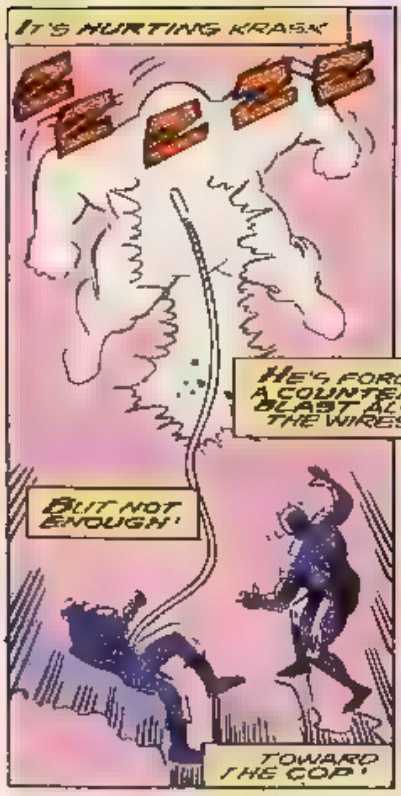
IN MY *WAY*!

AS.
THE BUILDING HAS BEEN BREACHED!
CODE: BLUE?
THE FLIES ARE ATTACKING THE FLY-SWATTER!
BELOW.
CAN'T BE SURE HOW LONG THESE GADGETS FROM REDFIELD ELECTRONICS CAN DISRUPT THE ENERGY MATRIX AROUND THIS PLACE!
TRANSLATION MOVE YOUR TAILS!
LOOKING FOR ME, OFFICER?
IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME
ACTIVATE CONTAINMENT FIELDS! THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN HOPE TO CAPTURE THAT THING!
I KNOW, I KNOW! I SAW GHOSTBUSTERS, TOO.
I AM NO GHOST.
I AM KRONIN KRASK!
AS IN "THE" KRONIN KRASK?
GUESS YOU'RE LIVING PROOF THAT IF YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU-
YOU'LL COME BACK FOR IT.
WHO ARE YOU?
THE NAME'S DAREDEVIL!
YOU PEOPLE ALL RIGHT?
OUR BODY ARMOR TOOK MOST OF THE BLAST -BUT HELSTEIN--
I'LL GET HIM
NO..

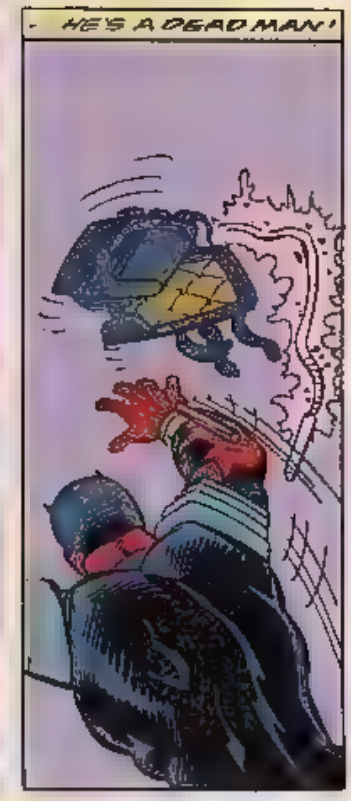

I WILL!
ENERGY
CASCADING FROM KRASK
FLOWING FROM THE DISRUPTOR

WHY NOT BRING THE TWO-

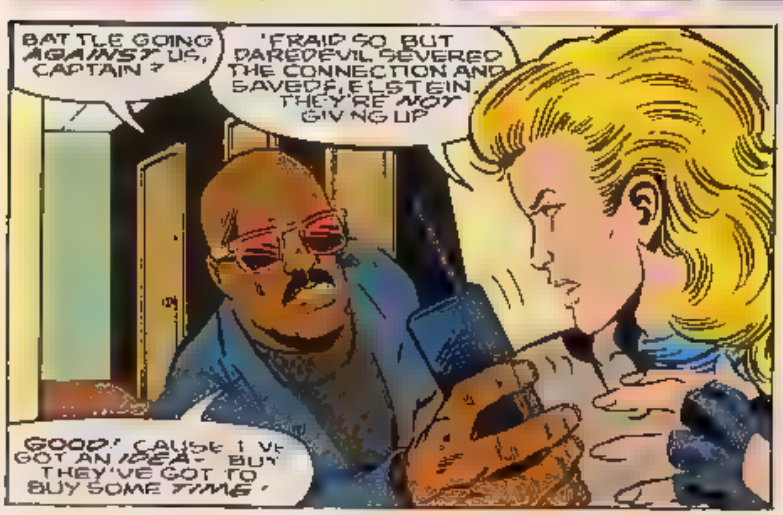

--TOGETHER?
ARRRHH

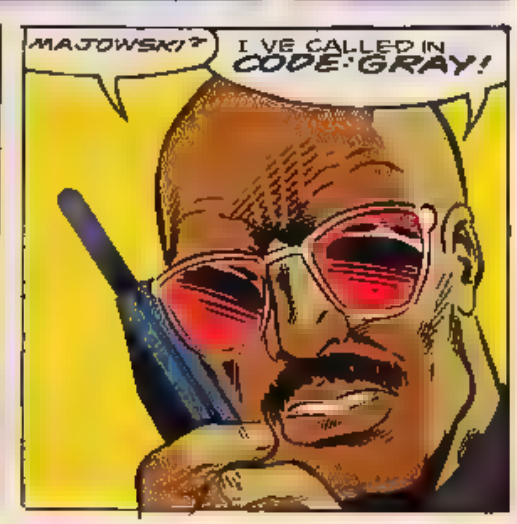

IT'S HURTING KRASK
HE'S FORCING A COUNTER-BLAST ALONG THE WIRES
BUT NOT ENOUGH!
TOWARD THE COP!

IF FELSTEIN'S POWER PACK DOESN'T DO THE TRICK --


- HE'S A DEAD MAN!

FROOOM


BATTLE GOING AGAINST US, CAPTAIN?
'FRAID SO. BUT DAREDEVIL SEVERED THE CONNECTION AND SAVED FELSTEIN. THEY'RE NOT GIVING UP
GOOD! CAUSE I'VE GOT AN IDEA - BUT THEY'VE GOT TO BUY SOME TIME!


MAJOWSKI?
I'VE CALLED IN CODE: GRAY!

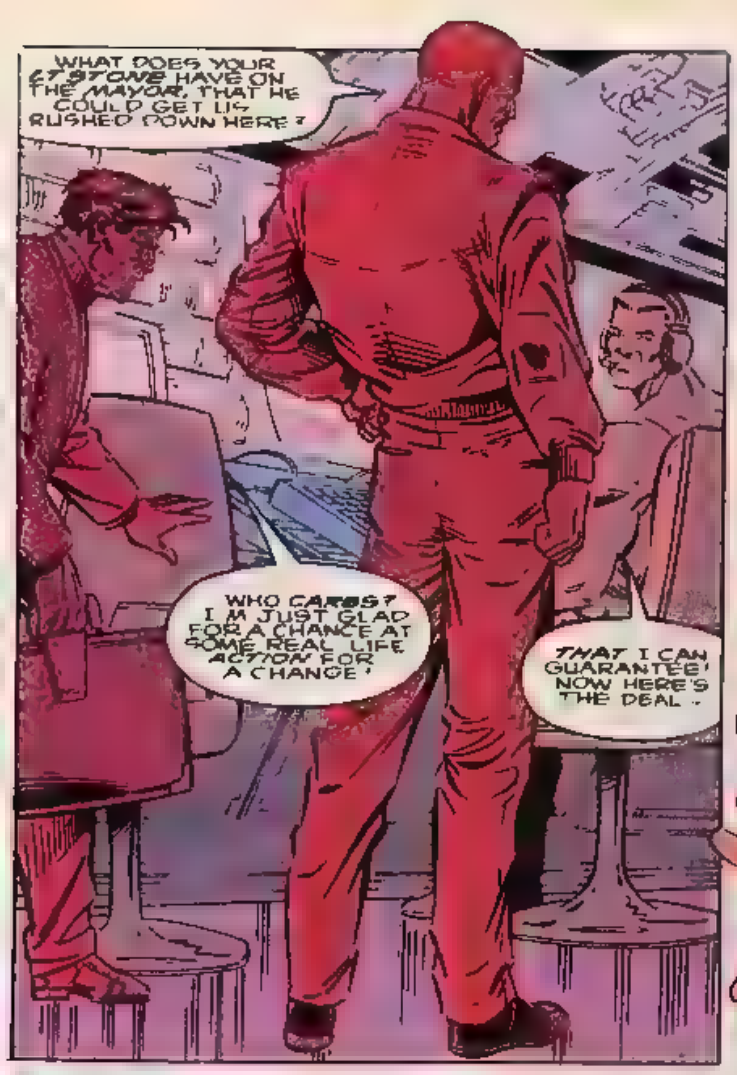
WHAT CAN *THEY* DO, LIEUTENANT? DAREDEVIL AND CODE BLUE ARE RUNNING OUT OF *STEAM* FAST.

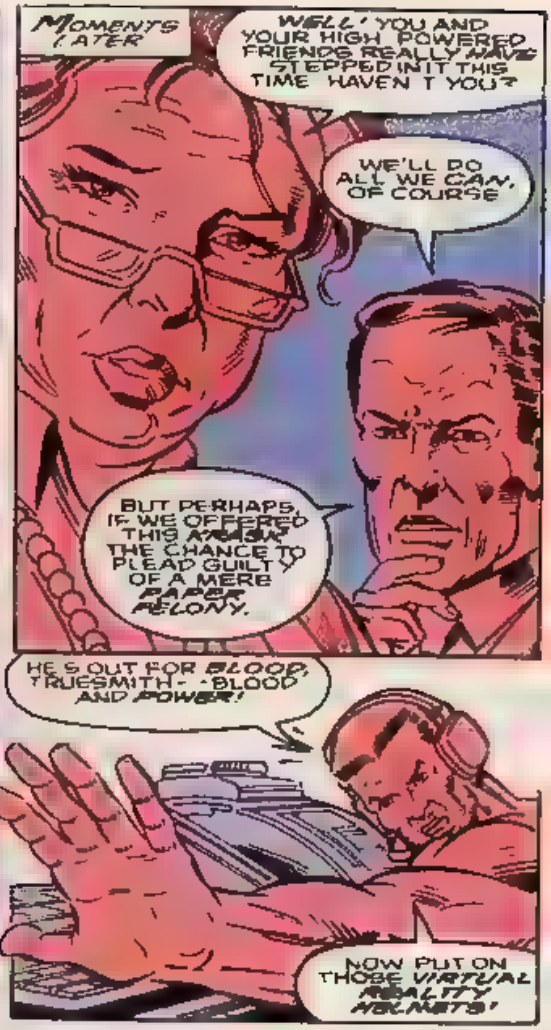
-WHILE *KRASK'S* ENERGY SEEMS *INEXHAUSTIBLE*

WHILE HE WAS *ALIVE*, KRASK MADE MOST OF HIS *BILLIONS* ON WALL STREET--

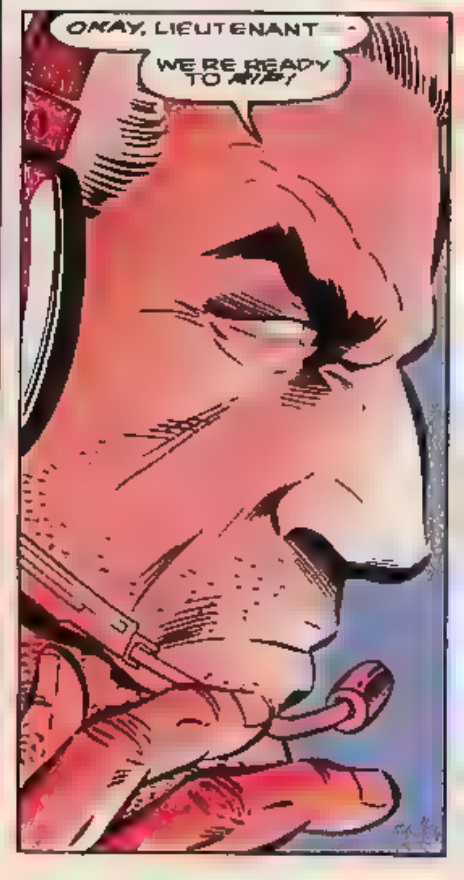
- BUT *TODAY* HE'S LIABLE TO TURN IT INTO A *GRAVEYARD*!

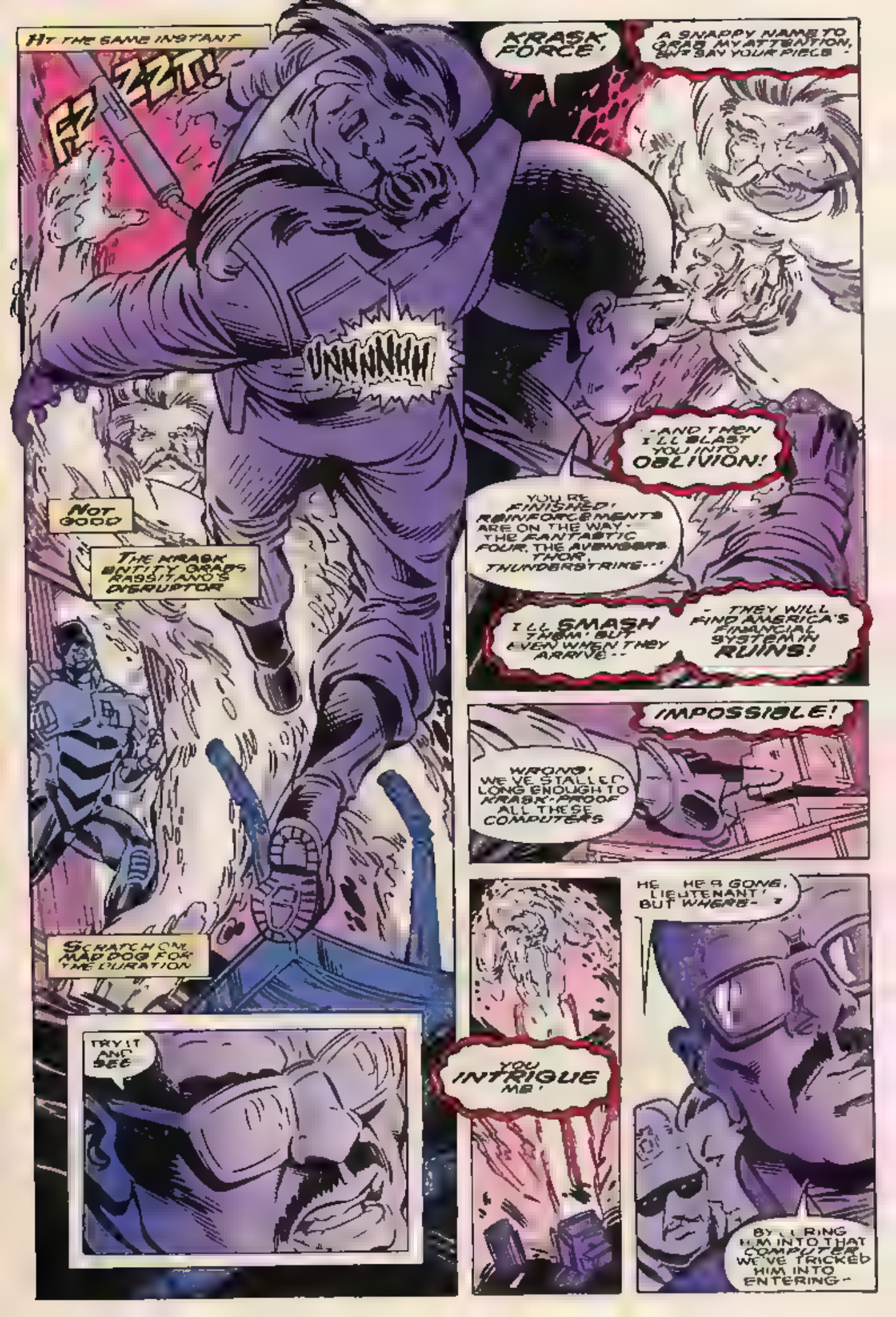
PERHAPS *WE* CAN HELP?

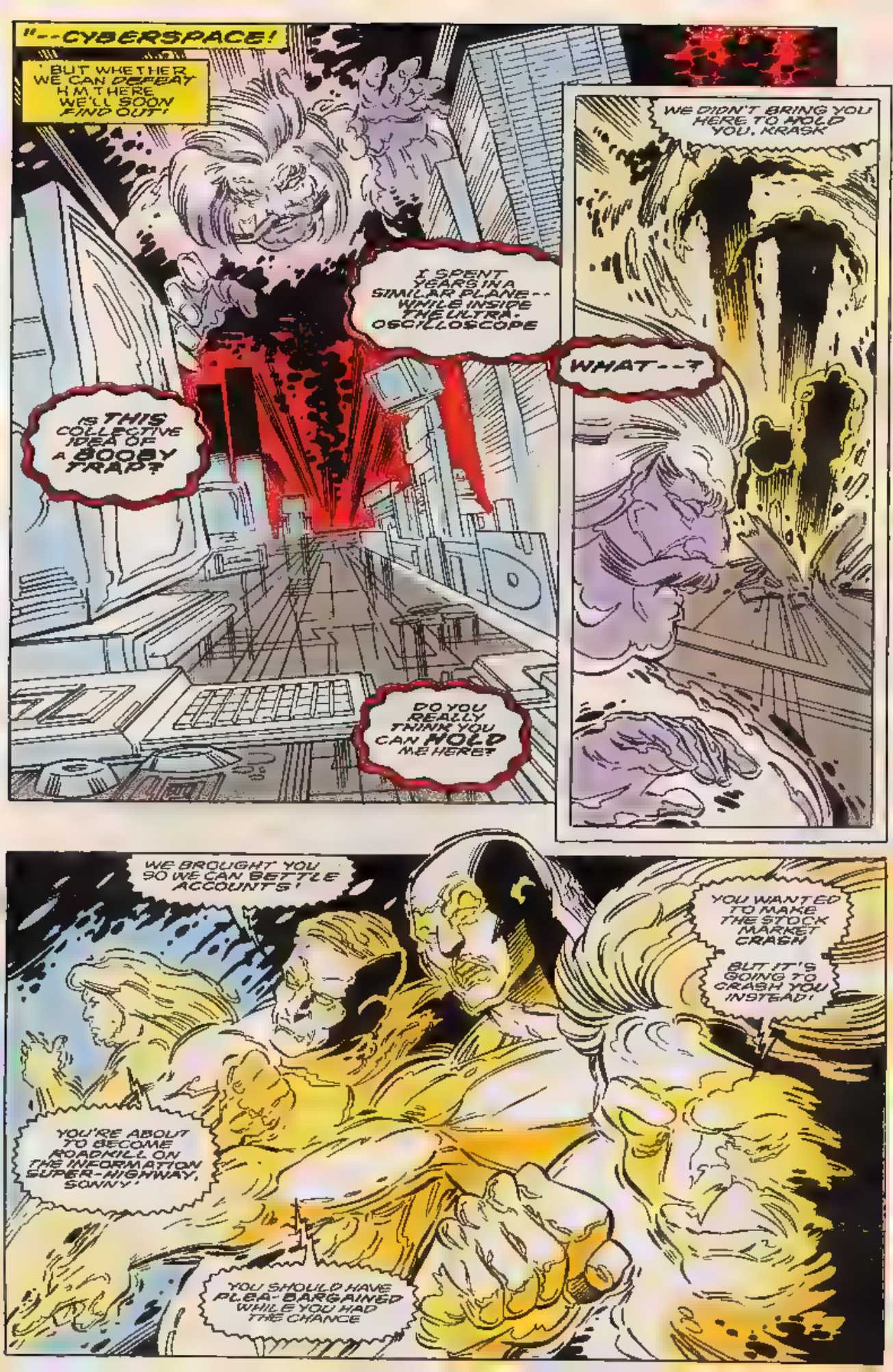

WHAT DOES YOUR CYBYTONE HAVE ON THE MAYOR, THAT HE COULD GET US RUSHED DOWN HERE?
WHO CARES? I'M JUST GLAD FOR A CHANCE AT SOME REAL LIFE ACTION FOR A CHANGE!
THAT I CAN GUARANTEE! NOW HERE'S THE DEAL.

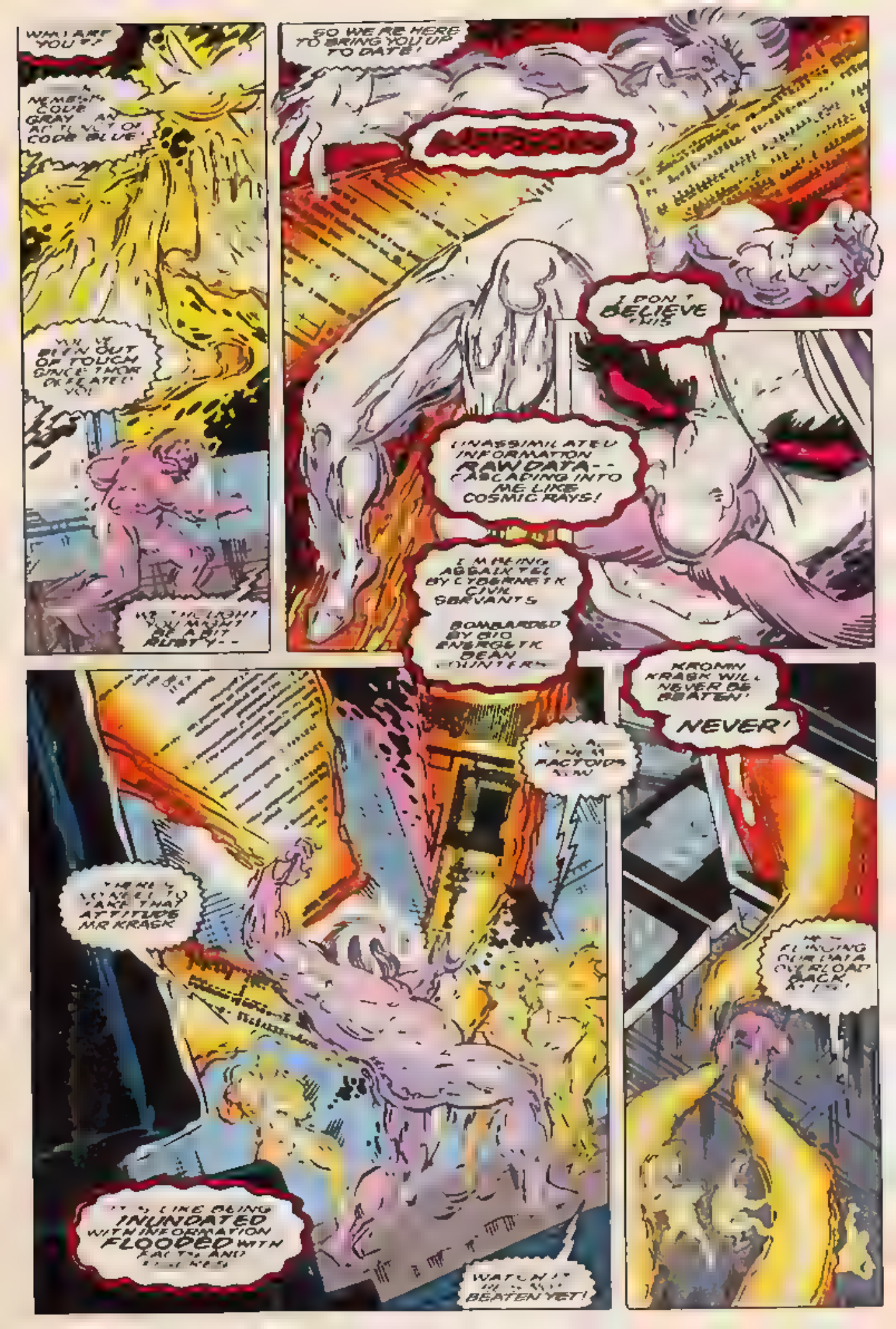

MOMENTS LATER
WELL! YOU AND YOUR HIGH POWERED FRIENDS REALLY HAVE STEPPED IN IT THIS TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?
WE'LL DO ALL WE CAN, OF COURSE.
BUT PERHAPS, IF WE OFFERED THIS ASSAULT THE CHANCE TO PLEAD GUILT OF A MERE PAPER FELONY.
HE'S OUT FOR BLOOD, TRUESMITH--BLOOD AND POWER!
NOW PUT ON THOSE VIRTUAL REALITY HELMETS!

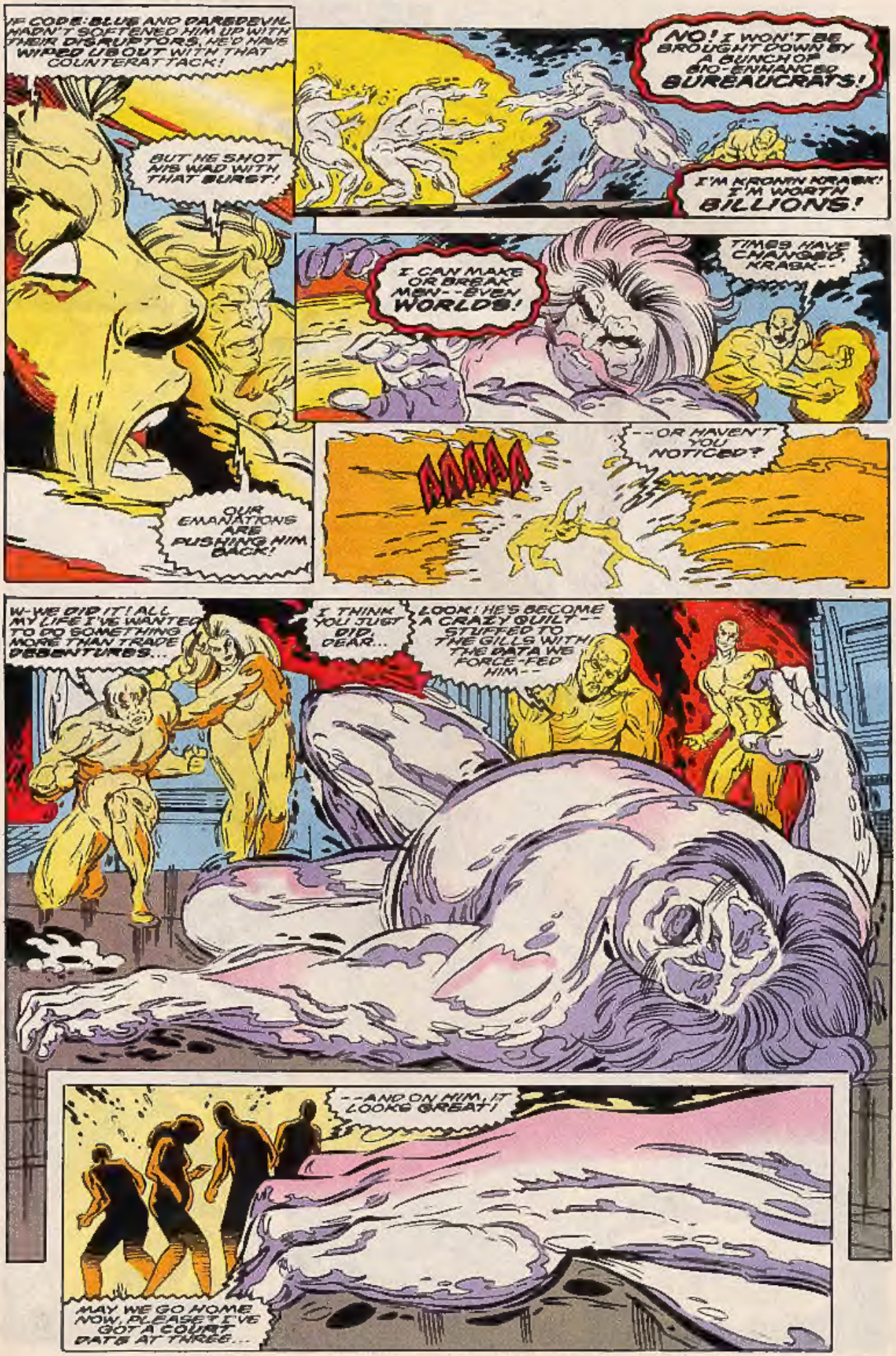
MY YOUNGEST HAS SOMETHING LIKE THIS
IF YOU'D CALL A WATER PISTOL AN AK-47!
NOW JUST SIT TIGHT!

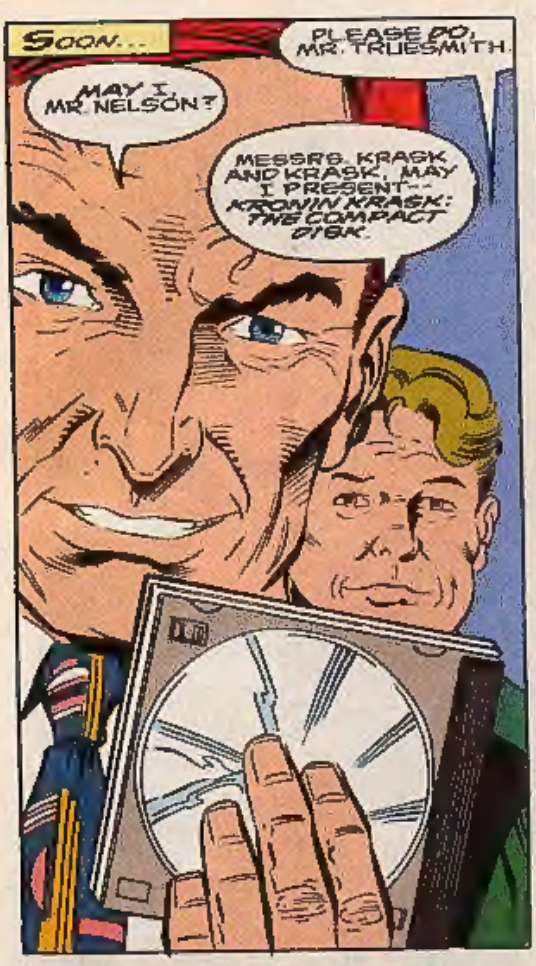

OKAY, LIEUTENANT--
WE'RE READY TO ROLL!


AT THE SAME INSTANT
FZZZTT!
UNNNNHH
NOT GOOD
THE KRASK ENTITY GRABS RASSITANO'S DISRUPTOR
SCRATCH ON MAD DOG FOR THE DURATION
TRY IT AND SEE
KRASK FORCE!
A SNAPPY NAME TO GRAB MY ATTENTION, BUT SAY YOUR PIECE!
-AND THEN I'LL BLAST YOU INTO OBLIVION!
YOU'RE FINISHED! REINFORCEMENTS ARE ON THE WAY - THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THE AVENGERS, THOR, THUNDERSTRIKE...
I'LL SMASH THEM, BUT EVEN WHEN THEY ARRIVE...
- THEY WILL FIND AMERICA'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM IN RUINS!
IMPOSSIBLE!
WRONG! WE'VE STALLED LONG ENOUGH TO KRASK-PROOF ALL THESE COMPUTERS
YOU INTRIGUE ME!
HE - HE'S GONE, LIEUTENANT! BUT WHERE-?
BY LURING HIM INTO THAT COMPUTER WE'VE TRICKED HIM INTO ENTERING-


"--CYBERSPACE!
BUT WHETHER WE CAN DEFEAT HIM THERE WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!
I SPENT YEARS IN A SIMILAR PLANE-- WHILE INSIDE THE ULTRA-OSCILLOSCOPE
IS THIS COLLECTIVE IDEA OF A BOOBY TRAP?
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN HOLD ME HERE?
WE DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO HOLD YOU, KRASK
WHAT--?
WE BROUGHT YOU SO WE CAN SETTLE ACCOUNTS!
YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME ROADKILL ON THE INFORMATION SUPER-HIGHWAY, SONNY!
YOU SHOULD HAVE PLEA-BARGAINED WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE
YOU WANTED TO MAKE THE STOCK MARKET CRASH
BUT IT'S GOING TO CRASH YOU INSTEAD!


WHO ARE YOU?
NEMESIS COVE GRAY AN ACTIVIST OF CODE BLUE!
WE'VE BEEN OUT OF TOUCH SINCE THOR DEFEATED YOU!
SO WE'RE HERE TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS
INASSIMILATED INFORMATION RAWDATA-- CASCADING INTO ME LIKE COSMIC RAYS!
I AM BEING ASSAULTED BY CYBERNETIC CIVIL SERVANTS
BOMBARDED BY BIO ENERGETIC DEAN WINTERS
KROMM KRAGK WILL NEVER BE BEATEN! NEVER!
FACTOIDS
THERE'S NO NEED TO TAKE THAT ATTITUDE MR KRAGK
IT'S LIKE BEING INUNDATED WITH INFORMATION FLOODED WITH FACTS AND
WATCH IT BEATEN YET!
FLINGING OUR DATA OVERLOAD BACK


IF CODE:BLUE AND DAREDEVIL HADN'T SOFTENED HIM UP WITH THEIR DISRUPTORS, HE'D HAVE WIPED US OUT WITH THAT COUNTERATTACK!
BUT HE SHOT HIS WAD WITH THAT BURST!
OUR EMANATIONS ARE PUSHING HIM BACK!
NO! I WON'T BE BROUGHT DOWN BY A BUNCH OF BIO-ENHANCED BUREAUCRATS!
I'M KRONTN KRASK! I'M WORTH BILLIONS!
I CAN MAKE OR BREAK MEN--EVEN WORLDS!
TIMES HAVE CHANGED, KRASK--
--OR HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED?
W-WE DID IT! ALL MY LIFE I'VE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING MORE THAN TRADE DEBENTURES...
I THINK YOU JUST DID, DEAR...
LOOK! HE'S BECOME A CRAZY QUILT--STUFFED TO THE GILLS WITH THE DATA WE FORCE-FED HIM--
--AND ON HIM, IT LOOKS GREAT!
MAY WE GO HOME NOW, PLEASE? I'VE GOT A COURT DATE AT THREE...

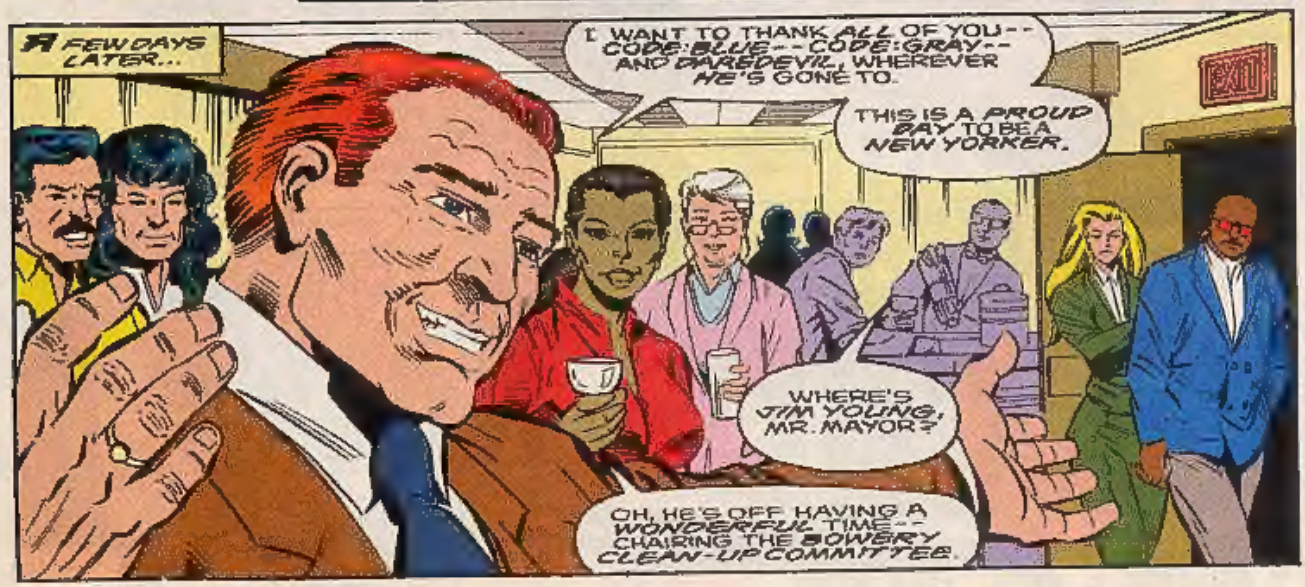

SOON...
PLEASE DO, MR. TRUESMITH.
MAY I, MR. NELSON?
MESSRS. KRASK AND KRASK, MAY I PRESENT-- KRONIN KRASK: THE COMPACT DISK.

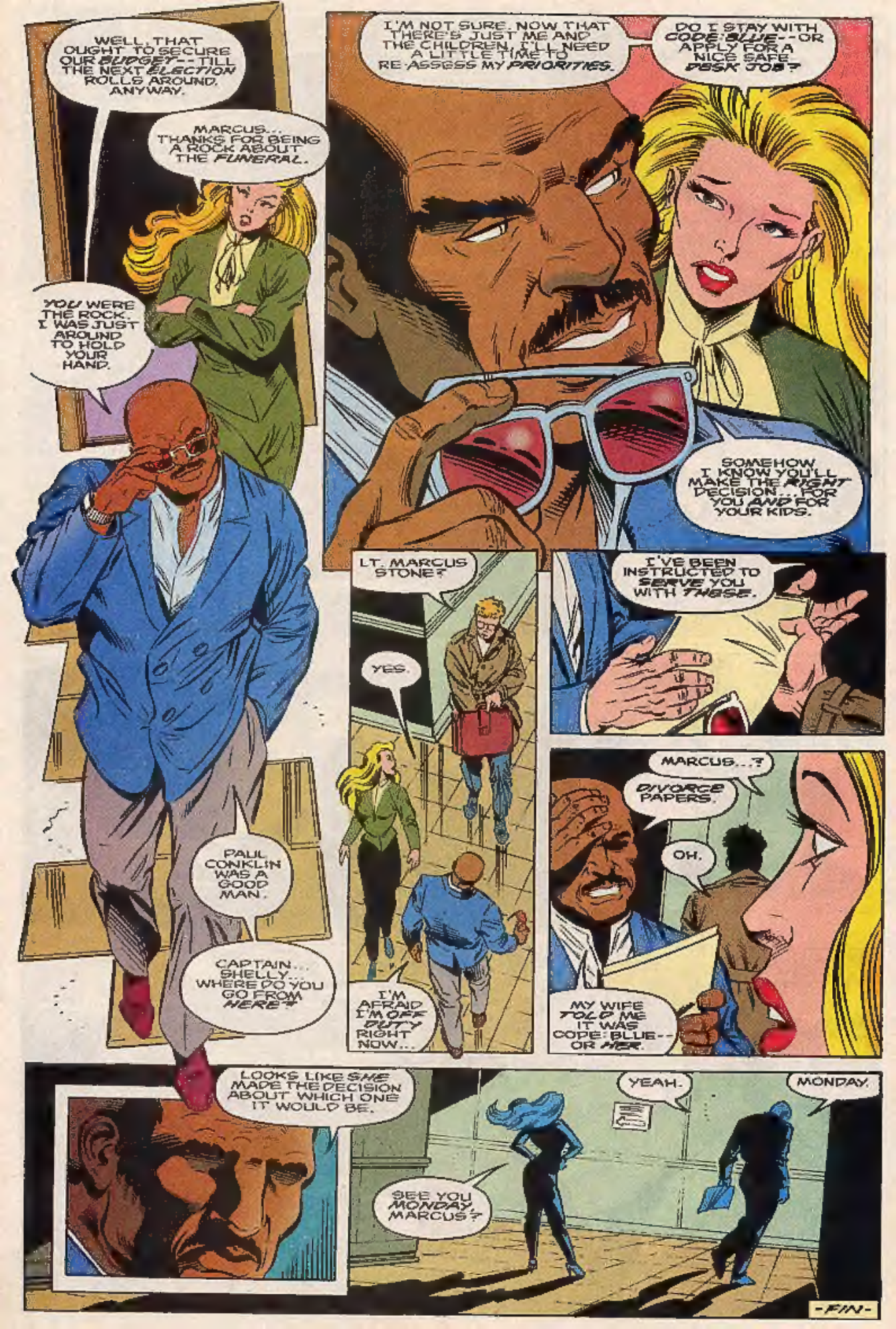
YOU'RE SAYING THAT DISK CONTAINS OUR FATHER-- CONVERTED INTO ENERGY?
PRETTY HEARTLESS OF YOU, TO PUT IT THAT WAY!
WHEN YOU THOUGHT HE MIGHT ACTUALLY RETURN TO LIFE, YOU WERE BOTH SHAKING IN YOUR SELFISH BOOTS!
NOW--ARE YOU GOING TO ACCEPT THE CITY'S $500,000 SETTLEMENT OFFER?

$500,000. WE ASKED FOR $50 MILLION...
AND IF YOU TAKE US TO COURT, THE CITY WILL CHALLENGE YOUR PROBATE OF YOUR FATHER'S ESTATE--ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE'S STILL ALIVE--

--WHICH HE IS, AFTER A FASHION.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO TAKE A CHANCE ON LOSING EVERYTHING?

GIVE IT HERE. WE'LL SIGN.
I JUST LOVE A FRIENDLY OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT.


A FEW DAYS LATER...
I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU-- CODE:BLUE--CODE:GRAY-- AND DAREDEVIL, WHEREVER HE'S GONE TO.
THIS IS A PROUD DAY TO BE A NEW YORKER.
WHERE'S JIM YOUNG, MR. MAYOR?
OH, HE'S OFF HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME-- CHAIRING THE BOWERY CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE.
EXIT


WELL, THAT OUGHT TO SECURE OUR BUDGET--TILL THE NEXT ELECTION ROLLS AROUND, ANYWAY.
MARCUS... THANKS FOR BEING A ROCK ABOUT THE FUNERAL.
YOU WERE THE ROCK. I WAS JUST AROUND TO HOLD YOUR HAND.
PAUL CONKLIN WAS A GOOD MAN.
CAPTAIN... SHELLY... WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?
I'M NOT SURE. NOW THAT THERE'S JUST ME AND THE CHILDREN, I'LL NEED A LITTLE TIME TO RE-ASSESS MY PRIORITIES.
DO I STAY WITH CODE BLUE--OR APPLY FOR A NICE SAFE DESK JOB?
SOMEHOW, I KNOW YOU'LL MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION... FOR YOU AND FOR YOUR KIDS.
LT. MARCUS STONE?
YES.
I'M AFRAID I'M OFF DUTY RIGHT NOW...
I'VE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SERVE YOU WITH THOSE.
MARCUS...?
DIVORCE PAPERS.
OH.
MY WIFE TOLD ME IT WAS CODE BLUE--OR HER.
LOOKS LIKE SHE MADE THE DECISION ABOUT WHICH ONE IT WOULD BE.
YEAH.
MONDAY.
SEE YOU MONDAY, MARCUS?
-FIN-

THE THUNDER STRIKES!

RALPH MACCHIO: WASTE — MATT IDELSON: ASSISTANT WASTE

C/O MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FULL ADDRESS PRINTED, PLEASE BE SURE TO TELL US SO!

Ralph and Matt,

I've been reading THUNDERSTRIKE since issue #1 and have loved the character. Issue #12 with Whyte Out was excellent. Well, now to my point. I was reading a back issue of THUNDERSTRIKE when I realized a startling surprise. Ed Marrero is Bloodaxe. When reading about something going on, Mr. Marrero said, "I assume you wouldn't object to . . . a little help?" Then, you talk about someone else and 5 pages later Bloodaxe got his axe and he knew about that morning. This concludes my theory. Am I right?

Thomas Farley
36 Forest Ave.
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Yeesh! *Another* Bloodaxe theory! *Just* what the doctor ordered . . .

Dear T-Strikers,

Bravo! Stand up and take a bow. From issue #1, it's been non-stop action. Now, my problem. I'm starving for a THUNDERSTRIKE ANNUAL. You could bring in Dargo, Beta Ray Bill, Sil, or even a final confrontation with Bloodaxe. Also, how about a date between Stellaris and Thunderstrike?

Thanks, Hammers High.

John Bullock
3221 S.W. 4th Lane
Cape Coral, FL 33991

Sorry to say there's no plans for a T-STRIKE ANNUAL, John. You see, with Eric's penchant for screwing up on the battlefield, we weren't certain there would *be* a first anniversary!

Dear Strike Masters,

Well, if there was any question that Bloodaxe is a villain (and not a misguided hero), issue #12 put it to rest. I am referring to pages 26 and 27, where Strike tries and begins to reason with Whyte Out. He reaches out to Whyte with compassion and understanding (which seems to be rare in most comics), *but then* . . . Bloodaxe executes the guy without a second thought. Now I really dislike him! I don't hate Bloodaxe, because I know how powerful the influence of that cursed axe is. After all, even Eric was tempted by its power. I think that's the real reason he kept the axe so close at hand. He began to grow more and more accustomed to that seductive *rush of evil*. Mwa-ha-ha-ha!

By the way, back in issue #1, we learn that Strike is somehow able to use his "own enchanted weapon to trail Bloodaxe across the city." If this is true, why not have Strike track down Bloodaxe and wait for him to return to human form? Of course, bringing a few Avengers along wouldn't be a bad idea. I have another question. In issue #3, Julia Concepcion (a.k.a Sangré) appears to be a brown-skinned Spanish woman, but in issue #11, Julia (and the picture of her son) looks quite different. Was this an oversight, or a redefining of the character? I personally like the original version from issue #3.

Oh, here's my suggestion for a new letters page title . . . "Striking Response." Well, until Bloodaxe decides to become a rock star and starts slam dancing into the audience, *axe first*...(I'm not catchin' him) . . . make mine Marvel!

Carl Walters
190-25 Wood Hull Ave.
Hollis, NY 11423

Eric can only track down Bloodaxe when he's concentrating on his target, and even then, only when Bloodaxe is, well, Bloodaxe. Eric would have to stand on a building 24 hours a day, concentrating if he wanted to find Bloodaxe. These days, Eric's got more on his mind than Bill Clinton!

Dear Waste and Assistant Waste:

Re: Thunderstrike #12. A very good issue, but I can't help wonder about a few things. I suppose it's just coincidence that the CEO of Skyways Express bares a passing resemblance to he who smokes cigars. I suppose it's also coincidence that his first name was "Thomas." Oh, well.

One question, however. Will Stellaris and Thunderstrike become romantically involved? Given the complexity of his life, it does seem possible. Well, until the letter j becomes popular in the names of heroes and villains again, make mine Marvel!

Chris Nemec
(Address withheld by request)

Will Stellaris and Eric get involved? That is the question of the hour (far more interesting than that Bloodaxe business, don't you think?). Of course, maybe Stellaris *is* Bloodaxe in which case . . .well, that definitely *wouldn't* be what the doctor ordered.

Dear Thunder Strikes!,

Quasar is the only other character in the history of comics I have ever felt this way about. To be honest, I never thought there would be another one. What I feel is this: Thunderstrike is someone I would like to be my friend. He is a genuinely decent person who is not perfect. He makes mistakes. Thunderstrike is so human in how he deals with his triumphs and tragedies. When the actions of Thunderstrike are detrimental to Eric's life (or vice versa), he does not let it bring him down. Instead of becoming a gritty, brooding image of a hero, he rises above it (not always painlessly) to help others and himself to be their individual best. I am 26 and more than a little jaded but I can't help but be impressed by Thunderstrike!

All of this I credit to the visions of Tom and Ron. THUNDERSTRIKE could have been a boring footnote in the Marvel mythos; instead, Tom and Ron have made him a special and unique character in comics today. All that I ask is that you maintain the high standards you have set. If you don't, I'll have to kick your butts! Sorry, but as Eric's friend, I have a moral responsibility to him.

I have two requests:

1) If you are going to change the letters column name, why not "Strike Force." After all, that's what we the readers are!

2) In a future issue, could Ron and Al do a Stellaris pinup (fully armored and face revealed would be fine)? She is so beautiful the way they draw her, I feel she deserves a page to herself!

Thank you all for a wonderful monthly experience. Hey, Eric, if you need a friend to talk to, you know where to find me.

Todd Adam Gross
4807 Palm
Bellaire, Texas 77401

A Stellaris pinup is definitely a possibility, Todd—we'll talk to Ron. In the meantime, what'd you think of all the spotlight put on her this issue?

NEXT ISSUE

A major heart-to-heart! A major revelation! A major defeat! All this, and theological metaphysics, too! Who says this isn't the comic for the 90's?